Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-087
Monday
6 May 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-087 6 May 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meet Held 1
Ministers Arrive *[KUNA]* 1
'Strong Warning' to Iraq Issued *[KUNA]* 1
Kuwait, Qatar Leaders Address GCC *[KUNA]* 2
Ministers Conclude Working Session *[Radio Kuwait]* 3
'Strong Links' Seen With Iran *[Tehran Radio]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Views Central Council Meeting *[London AL-MAJALLAH 1-7 May]* 3
Al-Husayni Views Baker Talks, Peace Prospects *[London AL-MAJALLAH 1-7 May]* 4
Fatah's Al-Hasan for Joint Group at Peace Talks *[MAP]* 5
Fronts Reject Regional Meet, Urge U.S.-PLO Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Commentary Reacts to Hurd News Conference *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Spokesman Says Milhim Interview 'Private Opinion' *[Algiers VOP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Parties Begin Preparations for June Elections *[APS]* 6
Madani Not To Run *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Ummah Movement Not To Participate *[Algiers Radio]* 6
FLN Official on Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Ben Bella on Candidacy *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Chairman Voices Opinion *[APS]* 7
Foreign Minister Addresses East-West Seminar *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Soviet Foreign Minister To Visit Cairo 10 May *[MENA]* 7
Cairo 'Rejected' UK 'Joint Concessions' Request *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
Further on PLO Official's Visit to Cairo 8
Views Regional Conference, Delegation *[MENA]* 8
Departs After 'Constructive' Visit *[MENA]* 8
Tunisia's Ben Yahya Visits; Message for Mubarak 8
Arrives 3 May *[MENA]* 8
Conveys Message to Mubarak *[MENA]* 9
Meets 'Abd-al-Majid; No Details *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Departs 6 May *[Cairo Radio]* 9
U.S. Official in Cairo To Discuss Disarmament 9
Talks With Foreign Ministry Official *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Discussion With Abu-Talib *[Cairo Radio]* 10

Turkish Envoy Denies Sale of Water to Israel *[MENA]* 10
Paper Decries Israeli Stand on Peace Conference *[MENA]* 10
Israeli Supporters 'Fed Up' With 'Arrogance' *[Cairo Radio]* 10

Sudan

National Conference Approves Statute, Charter *[SUNA]* 11
Resolutions Issued *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Al-Bashir Closes Conference *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Al-Bashir on 'Conspiracy' Facing Nation *[SUNA]* 12
Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives *[SUNA]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

UK's Hurd Gives News Conference, Reviews Visit *[Radio Kuwait]* 14
French Foreign Minister Dumas Arrives 5 May *[KUNA]* 14
Received by Amir *[KUNA]* 14
Deportee Assistance Promised *[Paris Radio]* 14
Iraqi Compensation Postponement Request Viewed *[Radio Kuwait]* 14
Cabinet Condemns 'Campaigns' Against Saudi Arabia *[KUNA]* 14

Oman

UAE, Oman Agree To Exchange Ambassadors *[WAKH]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives Jeddah 3 May *[SPA]* 15
Meets With King Fahd *[SPA]* 15
Relations Discussed *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
Gives News Conference *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
Statement on Reaction to Peace Moves Cited *[Riyadh Radio]* 16

IRAQ

Saddam Visits Mosul, Meets With Officials *[INA]* 18
Saddam Chairs Ba'th Regional Command Meeting *[INA]* 18
Cabinet Reviews Political, Economic Matters *[INA]* 18
More Memos Sent to UN on U.S.-Saudi Overflights 19
1-2 May Activity *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
2-3 May Overflights *[INA]* 19
Memo to UN Says Iran Violated Cease-Fire 2 May *[INA]* 19
Trade Minister Comments on Effects of Blockade *[AL-RA'Y 5 May]* 20
Government Lifts Censorship of Foreign Media *[AFP]* 21
Ba'th Party Officials Asked To Return Weapons *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 21
Reservists Born 1947-1952 Discharged From Service *[INA]* 21
Health Minister Leaves for WHO Conference *[INA]* 21
Planning Minister on Postwar Development Goals *[INA]* 21
Reportage on Restoration of Telecommunications 22
Defense Minister on Phone Service *[INA]* 22
TV Transmissions Said To Resume *[INA]* 22
Further on TV Transmissions *[INA]* 23
Electricity Restored to Irbil, Dhi Qar Provinces *[INA]* 23
Defense Minister: Gasoline Production To Increase *[INA]* 23
Oil Ministry Official on Increase *[INA]* 23
Ministry Allows Unrestricted Kerosene Distribution *[INA]* 23
Oil By-Products Price Reduction Effective 8 May *[INA]* 24
Reportage on State of Natural Gas Production 24
Restrictions on Cylinders Lifted *[INA]* 24

Plant Prepared To Bottle Gas *[INA]* 24
Minister Announces Wheat, Rice Import Contracts *[INA]* 24
Australia Said To Sell 1 Million Tonnes of Wheat *[AL-RA'Y 5 May]* 24
Iranian Leaders Said 'Worse' Than Shah's 'Team' *[INA]* 24
Newspaper: Iran 'Failed To Learn' From War *[INA]* 25
'U.S. Camps of Humiliation' in Dahuk Criticized *[INA]* 25
U.S. Overflights 'Arouse Feelings of Hatred' *[INA]* 25
Newspaper Criticizes U.S. 'Machiavellian' Policy *[INA]* 26
'Wagers' on Domestic Front 'Penetration' Ridiculed *[INA]* 26
Paper Calls on Kurds To Abort U.S. 'Dirty Plot' *[INA]* 26
Opposition Alleges U.S. Materiel Being Acquired *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 27
Opposition Reports Attacks on Republican Guards *[Tehran International]* 27
REUTER Cited on Attack on Commander's Home *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 27
Arms Depot Blast Reported; Regime Buys Weapons *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 27
Rebel Radio Reports Attack on Artillery Regiment *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 27

ISRAEL

Soviet Ties To Be Resumed on Bessmertnykh Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Source: Prisoner Swap Must Include Israelis *[DAVAR 5 May]* 28
Adviser on Negotiations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Shamir Admits Differences With U.S. *[Hamburg DPA]* 28
Netanyahu: Pressure 'Will Not Influence Us' *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
New Settlement in Hebron To Be Populated Soon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Sharon on U.S. Trip, Settlements Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Cabinet Members View U.S. Treatment of Sharon *[IDF Radio]* 30
Sharon Returns; Gush Emunim Denies New Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Levi Attacks Right-Wing 'Whining' in Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Moda'i on U.S. Ambassador's Remarks on Aid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Moda'i, Olmert: No Police Change *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
Moda'i Criticizes Expediting Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Visiting CSFR Premier on Sale of Soviet Tanks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Comments on Arms Industry; Meets Shamir *[Prague Radio]* 33
Meets With Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Discusses Arms to Arabs *[Prague Radio]* 33
2 Air Force Pilots Killed in Training Accident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Danish Foreign Minister Meets With Shamir *[Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE 30 Apr]* 33
Talks With Arens *[Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE 1 May]* 34
Paper Rejects Regional Meet Without PLO *[AL-TALI'AH 2 May]* 34
Bush's Direct Role in Peace Process Urged *[HA'ARETZ 3 May]* 35
Inter-Arab Dispute Seen as Cause of Murder *[AL HAMISHMAR 2 May]* 36
Druze Clash With Police During Demonstration *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 May]* 38
Intifadah Incidents Updated 1 May *[HA'ARETZ 1 May]* 38
2 Arabs Killed; Other Incidents in Territories *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 May]* 39
Incidents in Territories 3-4 May *[DAVAR 5 May]* 39

JORDAN

Prime Minister Badran Receives PLO Delegation 4 May *[Amman TV]* 41
King Confers With Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 41
PLO Works To Strengthen Political Coordination *[JORDAN TIMES 5 May]* 41
House Delegation, DFLP's Hawatimah Discuss Dialogue *[AL-DUSTUR 1 May]* 42
Al-Masri Says UK, U.S. Differ on Palestine Issue *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 May]* 42
U.S. 'Puzzle,' UK 'Distinctions' Criticized *[AL-RA'Y 4 May]* 43
Hurd Said 'Unfair' on Kuwait, West Bank Occupations *[JORDAN TIMES 4 May]* 43
Daily Comments on UK, EC Roles in Pressuring Israel *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 3 May]* 44
U.S. Seen 'Moving Away' From Resolutions 242, 338 *[AL-RA'Y 6 May]* 45
Palestinian Role in Any Negotiations Emphasized *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 May]* 45
U.S. Embassy Request To Close Bank Rejected *[AL-RA'Y 5 May]* 46
U.S. Navy Still Intercepting al-'Aqabah-Bound Ships *[AL-RA'Y 4 May]* 46
Columnist Rejects U.S. 'Interference,' 'Piracy' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 6 May]* 46

Government Urged To Protest U.S. 'Bullying' *[AL-RA'Y 5 May]* 47
Premier Meets With Iraqi Trade Minister *[Amman Radio]* 48

LEBANON

Birri Threatens Israel With 'Suicide Operations' *[Beirut Radio]* 49
Israeli Forces Move Into Jazzin, Kafr Huna *[VOM]* 49
Army, Palestinians Clash in Tyre 5 May *[VOL]* 49
Captured Commandos Brought Before Military Court *[AFP]* 49
Fadlallah: Conditions Encourage Hostage Issue *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 49
Karami Express 'Irritation' With Wave of Strikes *[VOL]* 49

SYRIA

Ba'th Party Official Receives WPK Delegation *[Damascus TV]* 51
Meets With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Khaddam Interviewed on Militias, Resistance *[VOL]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Fundamentalist Leader Quits Mujahidin Government *[AFP]* 54
Hikmatyar, Rabbani 'Recently' Met Al-Qadhdhafi *[AFP]* 54
More Cooperation Talks With Russian Province *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Najibullah Addresses Watan Party Activists *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Two New Members Join Constitution Council *[Kabul Radio]* 55

Bangladesh

Parliament Holds First Meeting After Cyclone *[AFP]* 55
Deaths, Property Damage Assessed *[Dhaka Radio]* 56
Government Defends Relief Operations *[Dhaka Radio]* 56
Pakistan's Sharif Arrives To Convey Sympathies *[Islamabad International]* 57
Visits Cyclone-Hit Areas *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Troops To Travel to Kuwait for Minesweeping *[AFP]* 57

India

Shekhar Calls for Reconciliatory Spirit on Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Shekhar, Gandhi on Punjab Peace Talks, Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Shekhar Sees 'Constructive Results' *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Denies 'Secret Deal' With 'Militants' *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Uttar Pradesh Crowd Stones Shekhar's Motorcade *[AFP]* 58
State Assembly Candidate Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Recent Election Violence Updated *[AFP]* 58
Delhi Concerned by Bihar Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Kashmir Militants Settle Differences After Talks *[AFP]* 59
Dubey Gives Pakistan Commission Kidnap Details *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Kidnappers Consider UN Appeal *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Nine 'Militants,' 13 Others Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 59
16 'Pak-Trained Militants' Surrender in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Five Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 60
'Unprovoked Firing' by Pakistan Troops Injures 5 *[Delhi Radio]* 60

Iran

Reportage on Visit by French Foreign Minister 60
Notes Aims of Visit *[IRNA]* 60
First Round of Talks Concluded *[Tehran TV]* 60
Refugee Aid Praised *[Paris Radio]* 61

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[IRNA]* 61
Talks With Petroleum Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Talks Assessed *[IRNA]* 61
Greeted by Refugees *[IRNA]* 62
Financial Disputes Discussed *[IRNA]* 63
Financial Agreement Reached *[Paris Radio]* 63
Mutual Invitations Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Dumas on Visit *[IRNA]* 63
Commentary Views Political Aspects of Dumas Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Finance Minister Reviews World Bank Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 64
President on Relations With Iraq, U.S. *[IRNA]* 65
Discusses Economy *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Papers on Western Treatment of Refugees, Muslims *[IRNA]* 67
Cabinet Briefed on Talks in Syria, Turkey *[Tehran TV]* 67
Khamene'i Briefed *[Tehran TV]* 68
Velayati Receives Message From Syria's Al-Shar' *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Cabinet Approves Amnesty, Return of Property *[Flag of Freedom]* 68
Supreme Security Council Views Regional Security *[IRNA]* 68
• Second Phase of Abadan Refinery Operational *[London KEYHAN 18 Apr]* 68

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Election-Related Incidents, Violence Reported *[AFP]* 69
NC, Communists' Election Prospects Viewed *[AFP]* 69

Pakistan

India Allegedly Fires Mortar Into Kashmir *[AFP]* 70
'Strong Protest' Lodged With UN *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Kashmiris 'Determined' To End Indian Occupation *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Government Rejects Indian Kidnapping Allegations *[Islamabad International]* 70
Spokesman Refutes Allegation *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Prime Minister Leaves for Bangladesh With Aid *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Returns From Dhaka *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Announces Grant for Cyclone Victims *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Turkey's Ozal Stops Over, Meets President *[Ankara Radio]* 71
PRC Minister Speaks at Banquet 4 May *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Delegation Meets With President *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Moscow Envoy Cancels Visit for Afghan Talks *[AFP]* 72

Sri Lanka

ADB To Grant Nation $240 Million Loan *[Colombo International]* 72
Premadasa Further Relaxes Emergency Regulations *[LANKAPUVATH]* 72
Army Takes Over LTTE Checkpoint in North *[Delhi Radio]* 73
Security Forces' Success in North Detailed *[LANKAPUVATH]* 73
'Hard Fought' Four-Hour Battle Near Kolikulam *[LANKAPUVATH]* 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meet Held

Ministers Arrive

LD0505095691 London KUNA in Arabic 0912 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 May (KUNA)—This morning Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers on the occasion of the first extraordinary GCC meeting to be held in Kuwait since liberation.

In a special statement to KUNA after the meeting with the amir, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that happiness "fills the hearts of all the ministers who arrived on this blessed day in liberated Kuwait under the leadership of the amir". [passage omitted]

The GCC foreign ministers arrived in Kuwait this morning to participate in the GCC foreign ministers extraordinary meeting. It has been decided that the conferees will discuss the new security arrangements in the region, developments in the Palestinian issue, and GCC-European cooperation.

'Strong Warning' to Iraq Issued

LD0505193691 London KUNA in Arabic 1651 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May (KUNA)—The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] extraordinary ministerial meeting which was held here today has addressed a strong warning to Iraq to implement all the international resolutions issued by the UN Security Council in relation to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. It also called on the international community and concerned institutions to make every possible contribution toward extinguishing the fires in the oilfields that were started by the Iraqi regime when it was driven out of Kuwait.

At the conclusion of its meeting, the council reaffirmed its condemnation of the evil acts perpetrated by the Iraqi regime in Kuwait, and it welcomed the deployment of UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] forces in the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687, and as a means of repelling border violations and monitoring aggressive action.

This is the first meeting of its kind to be held in Kuwait after the collapse of the Iraqi occupation and the return of Kuwait, free and proud, to its people and legitimacy.

The GCC includes Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar—chairman of the current 15th extraordinary session.

The final communique of the GCC affirmed the need for the speedy implementation of UNSC Resolutions 686 and 687, and renewed the demand that the Iraqi authorities release forthwith all the detained Kuwaiti and other hostages. Again, it placed full responsibility for the material and human losses inflicted on Kuwait onto Iraq and renewed its demand that Iraq pay reparations for those losses in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 674, 686, and 687, without any procrastination or delay.

The GCC reaffirmed the need for the continuation of the sanctions imposed on Iraq in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 661, 665, 670, 686, and 687 until Iraq releases all the detainees in Iraq, and until Iraq abides in deed by the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning the payment of reparations and the return of all stolen property to Kuwait.

It also stressed the need to continue with the aforementioned sanctions until Iraq commits itself in practice and action to UNSC Resolution 687 concerning the removal of all weapons of total destruction and until Iraq accepts what has been contained in that resolution—on site inspection to ascertain that it is carrying out its commitment—and until Iraq agrees unconditionally not to own or produce nuclear weapons.

The council reaffirmed at the end of its 15th extraordinary session today that it is necessary to eliminate all types of mass destruction weapons from the whole Middle East region.

It expressed its deep satisfaction with the return of security and peace to the entire Kuwaiti territory and with the fact that the Kuwaiti people are starting to eliminate the horrible traces and effects of aggression and are beginning to reconstruct their homeland. It expressed hope that the international community, the United Nations, and concerned international specialized agencies and institutions will adopt all measures suitable to contribute to the elimination of the effects of environmental pollution resulting from the burning oilwells, through effective participation in extinguishing the fires started by the Iraqi regime in the Kuwaiti oilfields, in accordance with UNSC Resolution 686.

The GCC Ministerial Council expressed its deep regret over the most horrible sufferings to which the Iraqi people are subjected as a result of the oppressive policy of the Iraqi leadership. In this respect it affirmed its stance by the side of the Iraqi people in their ordeal and its full concern for the integrity and regional safety of the Iraqi territory.

The council reiterated, from the soil of free and liberated Kuwait, with all pride and cherishment, its congratulations and blessings to Kuwait, leadership and country, for having been cleared of the forces of the regime of perfidy, crime and destruction, and the return of legitimacy there under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The council lauded the important directives offered by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, when the members of the ministerial council had the honor of meeting his highness this morning, and appreciated the directives that the fateful ties be deepened between the council member states and its people, and that the march of the council be strengthened in order to achieve its objectives, and to safeguard security and stability in the region.

The council also lauded the prominent role of the former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and his distinguished contribution to the deepening of cohesiveness, and the reinforcement of ties between the Council member states. It also welcomed the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, voicing its conviction that he was the best successor to the best predecessor, and wishing him success.

The council reviewed the development of events and the latest situation in the Gulf region, and brought back to mind the resolutions of the GCC higher council at its eleventh session in al-Dawhah, which underlined the unity of security links between the states of the region, affirmed the principle of collective defense of the council member states, and further assistance to the State of Kuwait.

The GCC Ministerial Council reiterated its condemnation of the evil acts and the results of the deliberate acts of ruination and destruction of the aspects of civilization in Kuwait, at the hands of the forces of the heinous occupation, and the organized and large-scale plundering by these forces of public and private property of the sons of Kuwait and its population, as well as the burning and destruction by the forces of evil of Kuwaiti oilwells and installations, and the appalling crimes by the criminal hands against the environment and nature.

The council affirmed its support for constructive peace efforts, and for the convening of the proposed international peace conference. It is following with extreme interest and deep eagerness the efforts exerted by the United States to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestinian question, on the basis of UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338.

The council also expressed satisfaction at the positive developments in Lebanon, and the successes achieved by the Lebanese Government in extending its authority in Lebanese territory. The council reaffirmed the support of the the GCC member states for the al-Ta'if agreement, and called for the full and unconditional implementation of UNSC Resolution 425, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Southern Lebanon without any procrastination or delay. The council also urged the international community to contribute to the aid fund for Lebanon decided on by the Arab summit.

The chairman of the current session of the ministerial council, the foreign minister of Qatar, stated at the end of the meeting of the council that the higher committee emanating from the GCC summit held in al-Dawhah in December last, under the chairmanship of Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id, was currently laying down recommendations concerning the security arrangements proposed for the Gulf region.

The committee, composed of the foreign ministers of the council member countries, will meet next Tuesday in Muscat, and it will submit its recommendations on this subject as soon as they are completed.

On the other hand, the Qatari foreign minister, Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, said that the GCC member states are with the Iraqi people in its trial, and that "we are against the practices of a specified regime that had undertaken an aggression against an Arab state. This is why we are against it, but we are with the Iraqi people."

Regarding the Damascus Declaration issued last March following the joint meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC member states, and those of Egypt and Syria, the Qatari minister and chairman of the session said that the meeting of the Arab League council due to be held in Cairo in mid-May will discuss this declaration in order to adopt it.

Answering a question regarding the role of Iran in the proposed security arrangements for the Gulf region, Minister al-Khatir said: "Iran is a friendly and neighboe state, and we have historic relations with it from the past. It must have a role in the proposed arrangements, and there is a report in this connection that will be submitted to it."

Concerning an alternative defense and security strategy, al-Khatir said: "There are meetings and studies on the subject, and the Gulf, Arab, and international dimension of this subject must be taken into account."

Kuwait, Qatar Leaders Address GCC

LD0505122791 London KUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait 5 May KUNA—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said this morning that the Iraqi regime did not restrict itself to killing the sons of the Kuwaiti people, destroying all the foundations of the state, and attempting to obliterate the identity of the Kuwaiti person—actions which all met complete rejection and perseverance on the part of the Kuwaiti people; the regime has also continued to expose this people to severe suffering by continuing to imprison large numbers of Kuwaitis and avoiding the international efforts aimed at releasing them.

In his address to the opening session of the extraordinary meeting of GCC foreign ministers here this morning, Shaykh Salim said that we have to look carefully into the far horizon this morning, in a serious attempt to draw up the picture of our future.

He expressed Kuwait's thanks and gratitude to the GCC leaders and their peoples, and also thanked Egypt and Syria for their pan-Arab stance which stemmed from their sincere fraternal commitment to Kuwait. He also thanked the fraternal Islamic countries and the friendly countries for their stance of solidarity with Kuwait.

Here is the text of the address by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister: [passage omitted]

Brothers, within the Arab framework and within the context of the international efforts aimed at establishing the pillars of peace and security in the world, we are following with interest and appreciation the efforts exerted by the United States toward putting an end to the

Arab-Israeli conflict and achieving a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian issue through holding an early peace conference. [passage omitted]

Qatari Foreign Minister, 'Ali al-Khatir, delivered the following address:

[Passage omitted] Your highnesses and excellencies,

The lessons of the invasion have explicitly revealed loopholes in our defense and security systems. This requires us to work toward modernizing our defensive means and coordinating our military structures. It also demands that we develop and activate the structure of the GCC so it can play its role in political, military, and economic coordination.

May God guide us for the good of our region. We ask God to grant us security and stability.

Peace be on you, and God's mercy and blessings. [passage omitted]

Ministers Conclude Working Session

LD0505174291 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The GCC foreign ministers concluded their first working session which lasted around three hours. The GCC secretary general, 'Abdallah Bisharah, said that during the session the ministers discussed the situation in the region after the liberation of Kuwait, and relations between the GCC countries and Egypt and Syria.

In a statement to the press after the session, he said that the ministers also discussed coordination among the council countries at the Arab League meeting due to be held in Cairo this month, and coordination between the GCC and EC countries.

'Strong Links' Seen With Iran

LD0605085391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0130 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] 'Abdallah Bisharah, the general secretary of the Persian GCC, yesterday announced: The six member states of the council are building strong links and negotiating with Iran on the security structure of the Persian Gulf region.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, who chaired the 15th GCC session in Kuwait, confirmed that negotiations are underway between that council and Iran and said: Iran is our friend and neighbor. It must have a role in the security structure of the region.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Views Central Council Meeting

PM0305131591 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 May 91 p 24

[Unattributed interview with Farug Qaddumi (Abd-al-Latif), head of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, date not given]

[Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] How do you assess the results of the Central Council meetings?

[Qaddumi] Coming after the Gulf crisis, the meeting was of special importance. It was necessary to review the crisis in detail and examine its effects on the Palestinian and Arab situations. Several reports were heard in an attempt to identify the weaknesses in inter-Arab relations and their causes.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How do you view the latest peace efforts and tours of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Qaddumi] It seems that the United States is trying to exploit the allied victory in that battle by imposing a settlement of some kind on the region. Any political settlement or international effort must take international resolutions and international legitimacy into consideration. Different interpretations of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 have appeared calling for a regional conference as opposed to an international conference which would be under UN supervision. We also notice that the United States is reluctant to resume its dialogue with us. There is no justification for the insistence on not resuming dialogue in the interest of reaching agreement on the terms of a settlement. If the United States is serious in its endeavors, then why is it reluctant to have the Security Council issue a five-member statement clearly charting the course for a settlement?

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is your current practical program, in the light of the Central Council meetings? What is the minimum requirement?

[Qaddumi] There can be no peaceful settlement without the PLO, complete Israeli withdrawal, cessation of settlement, and recognition of East Jerusalem as part of the independent Palestinian state. We also insist on the presence of Europe, China, and the United Nations as a framework and basis for such a settlement. Anything else is a waste of time.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why did Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh go to Moscow on the eve of Baker's arrival there? Is Moscow making efforts for a reconciliation between you and the U.S. Administration?

[Qaddumi] The purpose of the visit was coordination with the Soviet Union, as customary in such circumstances, particularly as Moscow is going to be an effective factor in the settlement.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But the PLO has emerged from the Gulf crisis under political siege on Arab and international levels.

[Qaddumi] We are advocates of unity and are for tackling matters in a spirit of fraternity and tolerance regardless of the mistakes and miscalculations. We must proceed on the basis of tolerance and must tackle Arab issues constructively to safeguard our nation's future and solidarity.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But the result remains the same: The siege on the PLO is now a reality.

[Qaddumi] We believe that the siege is temporary. We have adopted a belt-tightening policy.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you have a program for normalizing Arab relations?

[Qaddumi] While efforts are being made through Syrian-Palestinian meetings and through the five member-committee, we call on the Arab League to normalize all inter-Arab relations after the Gulf crisis. We do not consider ourselves as a party undermining any inter-Arab relations. We are working for the improvement of all these relations. The Arab League should make a start.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When will the Palestine National Council [PNC] meet?

[Qaddumi] We have instructed a Preparatory Committee to make preparations for it to convene as soon as possible to elect a leadership representing all forces and factions. No specific date has been set yet.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How will the PNC members be elected?

[Qaddumi] Proposals will be on the Preparatory Committee's agenda and recommendations will be submitted to the Executive Committee for the implementation of whatever is possible.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the factions currently not represented?

[Qaddumi] The Central Council has addressed invitations to all the factions of the revolution, including Hamas, to join the PLO bodies. There has been some progress in consultations with the "dissidents" in al-Sa'iqah and the PFLP-General Command. The Executive Committee will have the final word.

Al-Husayni Views Baker Talks, Peace Prospects

PM0305151191 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 May 91 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Jerisalem Arab Studies Center, by 'Abd-al-Karim Samarah in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] After the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Palestinian delegation within the framework of his tour of the region, AL-MAJALLAH interviewed the head of that delegation, Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem and a leading Palestinian personality in the occupied territories. The delegation included Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, professor at Bi'r Zayt University in the West Bank, and Dr. Haydar al-Shafi, chairman of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza.

Asked about the peace options proposed under present diplomatic moves, the apex of which is represented by U.S. Secretary of State Baker's tours, and about the minimum accepted by the Palestinians, al-Husayni said: "If we succeed as Palestinians in drawing up a clear picture of the post-peace stage, which begins with a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation and ends with regional cooperation, we could prove to others that the only peace option is the Palestinian option. That option must include the following issues: The Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, the economic requirements of that people, Palestinian security, Arab security, and also Israel's future in the Arab region and its security and economic requirements. The Palestinian state must demand more international guarantees to safeguard its security."

On peace options, al-Husayni said that under the present Israeli Government there is no hope of establishing true peace. But he added: We must enter the battle with Israel, relying on two pillars: the first political, and the second in the field. The first level means our nonengagement in the political battle and leaving the situation as it is—including the Israeli escalation of repression, settlement, emigration, and torture—based on our refusal to the peace process—which is totally against our interests. [sentence as published] Thus our engagement could lead to conflicts inside Israel that could affect the thrust of the Israeli plans. We must not give the Shamir government the chance to stay. Changing it is bound to bring about other possibilities. As for the other level, it is the intifadah, which must continue against the occupation.

[Samarah] What about the Palestinian position on the autonomy proposal?

[Al-Husayni] We will leave the door open to that proposal in the event of the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement that would be implemented in linked, scheduled stages. Each of them should lead to the next, under international guarantees based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Then any formula can be discussed as long as it is within that general framework.

[Samarah] What did you achieve in your meetings with the U.S. secretary of state?

[Al-Husayni] We managed to establish the following: We ascertained that the U.S. Administration does not want to talk directly to the PLO. But when we asked "Are you against the establishment of a Palestinian state?" Baker said that the U.S. Administration does not support the establishment of such a state, but will not fight it if the parties to the conflict agree on its establishment. The United States agrees to European and UN participation in the proposed peace conference expected to be held in Washington. Baker also said that the Palestinians' acceptance of a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would enable them to overcome the problem of the participation of Jerusalem inhabitants and the Palestinians outside [the occupied territories] in the delegation.

Al-Husayni pointed out that Israel is seeking to gain more time by increasing settlement and imposing a new reality in the occupied territories. Shamir relies on the Palestinian rejection of peace plans, pending a new crisis that would divert world attention from the region.

Israel believes Baker's moves, which seek to crystallize a new political plan, must be conducted based on the Israeli plan announced by Shamir in May 1989 and must deal with Resolution 242 on the basis of the interpretation of the Camp David accords, since Israel believes that resolution was implemented by returning Sinai to

Egypt. On resolving the Palestinian question, Israel believes it should be confined to resolving the problem of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, excluding Jerusalem, and that they should be granted autonomy as individuals, in which case Israel would maintain control of security and foreign affairs. That is the most the present Israeli Government accepts.

Fatah's Al-Hasan for Joint Group at Peace Talks

LD0305141591 Rabat MAP in English 1259 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May. 3 (MAP)—Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, PLO's mainstream, has backed the idea of setting up a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation for any eventual peace negotiations with Israel.

In an interview published Thursday by the UAE daily "AL-WAHDA", the Palestinian official explained "it is a strategic necessity", reiterating the ideas voiced recently during an interview with the French daily "LA CROIX" advocating the principle of setting up a Jordan-Palestinian confederation.

Fronts Reject Regional Meet, Urge U.S.-PLO Talks

JN0505182891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine met in Damascus today. They called for promoting and escalating the intifadah to confront the U.S. policy. They stressed their rejection of the regional conference and any other Middle East conference not convened on the basis of international legitimacy, or not aimed at implementing it. The two fronts said the United States should stop using two languages in its approach to UN resolutions. They demanded that the United States open a dialogue with the PLO, it being the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Commentary Reacts to Hurd News Conference

LD0305200791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 May 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, yesterday at a news conference with his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd criticized Israel's continued policy of building settlements in the occupied territories. He described this policy as grossly mistaken and unjust, and said that its continuation places obstacles in the way of the peace process in the area.

Although Douglas Hurd's criticism of Israeli policies is not the first, the timing of this criticism makes it a prominent event, especially when Britain has followed and still follows very stringent and punitive policies toward Iraq. It rejected any link between the Palestinian issue and the Gulf crisis. It affirmed its readiness to apply the same standards to Israel that were used against Iraq at the end of the Gulf crisis—a matter that puts the credibility of British and European promises to the test, when the U.S. Administration has failed this test because of its appeasement of Israeli policies and refusal to apply any pressure similar to that used against Iraq to make Israel accept the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Although the British minister pointed in his statements to the possibility of creating a unified European position, he reiterated in a singular voice the same attitude he expressed towards the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied areas. The British minister ought to realize, however, that to stop such policies and make Israel accept the peace option cannot be accomplished through words of appeasement and hypocrisy. It is achieved by a single unified European action that uses the same standard and follows the same line used against Iraq.

It is known that this British stance, and the European stance, too—if they ever get the chance to create a practical mechanism for putting an end to the U.S. monopoly on peace efforts—is capable of putting an end to U.S. attempts to be one jump ahead in the peace process as opposed to the European role, which constitutes the most important ring in this process.

Britain and all the European states are called upon today to apply their diplomatic and political weight so that they may be effective partners in the peace process. They must stress the need to hold an international peace conference with the participation of all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO—the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people—and they must make positive use of this weight in the direction of speeding up the convening of this conference and establishing total and lasting peace in the area.

Spokesman Says Milhim Interview 'Private Opinion'

LD0505194291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] An official PLO spokesman stated today that the Jordanian newspaper AL-DUSTUR has published an interview with brother Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, that includes several points which the Palestinian leadership and the Central Council have not discussed. It represents his private opinion.

At the same time, in harmony with the recent Central Council directives from 23 April, a high level Palestinian delegation headed by brother Abu-Mazin (Muhamud 'Abbas) is holding important, fundamental talks with Jordanian political leaders.

Algeria

Parties Begin Preparations for June Elections

LD0205130191 Algiers APS in English 1042 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Algiers, 2 May (APS)—As soon as President Bendjedid announced the date of the next legislative elections, various parties undertook to prepare the battle in order to have the majority of the parliament seats. These political parties, including those that do not have any chance of winning, should it be one sole seat, began to present their candidates. Other parties are in seek of alliances with political associations whose programmes seem to come closer to theirs in some specific points. These parties, however, have not officially announced yet possible alliances while in fact, observers noticed many meetings and consultations so as to concretize these alliances before the beginning of the electoral campaign or after the first round of the ballot.

These information speak about an alliance of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and an Ennahda Islamic party. The two sides are said to stand with unified list.

Furthermore, according to close sources of one religious party, consultations were undertaken by Islamic Daawa league that endeavours to achieve an alliance between the various Islamic currents so that they can stand the elections under a unique appellation that does not seem to appear.

From the Islamic tendency such is the general survey presented by the religious parties headed by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which stakes on this electoral battle to materialize promises made to its people's basis following the failure undergone in the management of its commons it won during elections of 12 June. [as received] On another turn, the National Liberation Front (FLN) party is working this time firmly and with [word indistinct] contrarily to the elections of 12 June.

The FLN, the same source said, will participate in the legislative elections under the sign of the carrying on of reforms to win the bet on the future to settle down the crisis lived through by the country in different fields, to abolish the contradictions born from the previous steps and find again the confidence of citizens.

As far as other parties are concerned and apart from some candidacies, nothing has yet been decided concerning alliances or electoral strategies.

The FFS (Socialist Forces Front) always keeps silent. As for the Seven + One (7+1), they do not seem to enter the election under this appellation by reason of their divergences. Some of these parties' militants absolutely refused this alliance because of the lacy obedience of some parties.

What could be said at least within this preelectoral period of June 27 ballot, is that political parties entered a race against time bearing the hope of achieving a good representation at the parliament.

Madani Not To Run

LD0405223691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, Shaykh Abassi Madani, stated today that he will not be a candidate for the coming legislative elections.

Ummah Movement Not To Participate

LD0405220991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpt] We have learned that the Ummah [Nation's] Movement, chaired by Mr. Youcef Ben Khedda, has decided not to participate in the coming legislative elections. [passage omitted]

FLN Official on Elections

LD0505093391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The main event in the national arena is the coming legislative elections, for which there are now wide preparations at the national level.

Prior to this legislative process, which is officially scheduled for 27 June and which is occurring for the first time in the atmosphere of the multiparty system ratified by the February 1989 Constitution, some of the party leaders have announced that they will not participate in these elections. The secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN] central committee, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, announced yesterday in a meeting with the officials of the FLN newspapers Al CHAAB, the daily El MOUDJAHID, and the weekly El MOUDJAHID that he will not be a candidate in the elections. He said: The FLN is united, and the principal criterion is credibility.

Ben Bella on Candidacy

LD0505062291 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpts] Things are moving for the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria] at the moment. There will be no congress before the legislative elections, the intervening period is too brief. But this does not stop its leader, Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella, from making trips. [passage omitted]

As for Mr. Ben Bella's possible candidacy, he reiterated that he is definitely not running in the legislative elections, but he is keeping himself back [il se reserve pour]—and he does not hide this—for the presidential elections. On this point Mr. Ben Bella is with those who are demanding early presidential elections; the only difference is that he is calling for them to be held after the legislative elections. [passage omitted]

Chairman Voices Opinion

LD0205172291 Algiers APS in English 1141 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Algiers, 2 May (APS)—The chairman of the National Association of Imams (Islamic religious) reasserted his association's attitude vis-a-vis the electoral campaign and partisan positions at all levels.

While invoking the increase of speculations these last days, upon the role of mosques within the forthcoming electoral campaign, the president of the association called upon all imams to mobilize themselves and be more vigilant, for political parties expect that imams would diffuse their respective political programme instead of their fundamental mission, which consisted in explaining the holy Koran as Shaykh Bin-Badis used to do in a similar period of parties and misunderstanding.

Furthermore, he voiced the hope to see the imams and nationals preserving mosques from conflicts and division and being above all partisan and sectarian voices. "Let us fear God to preserve our nation and our unity as our prophet stated in his hadith", concluded the president.

Foreign Minister Addresses East-West Seminar

LD0505053791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] An international seminar opened in Algiers today on East-West relations, organized by the Algerian Government and the United Nations Development Program. Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali spoke, stressing that the seminar was aimed at securing an exchange of views and preparing recommendations for the special session of the UN Economic and Social Council, which is due to be chaired by Algiers next July in Geneva.

Speaking about the current situation in the developing countries, Mr. Ghozali did not hide his concern about the economic situation of the Third World since the end of the cold war, and he noted the big difference in the advanced countries' dealing with the former socialist camp on the one hand, and poor countries on the other.

Egypt

Soviet Foreign Minister To Visit Cairo 10 May

NC0405140091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh is due to arrive in Cairo on Friday [10 May] for a two-day visit to Egypt, according to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Soviet foreign minister's visit, his first to Egypt, is part of a tour that also will include several Arab capitals and Israel. During the tour the Soviet minister will learn about various views on efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue. He also will present the Soviet views on the issue.

While in Egypt, the Soviet foreign minister will hold talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the latest developments in the area and the two countries' viewpoints regarding such developments.

Cairo 'Rejected' UK 'Joint Concessions' Request

JN0305180891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Knowledgeable diplomatic sources in Cairo have told us that British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd discussed during his meeting yesterday with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak security arrangements in the region, through the acceleration of the pace of Arab-Israeli peace steps and linking them to foundations of stability in the Gulf region.

According to the sources, Hurd put forward a British proposal that includes several points, with emphasis on economic, political, and trade relations between the Arabs and Israel, in addition to the possibility of supplying Israel with water from Arab rivers. In exchange, Israel would commit itself to taking positive steps prior to launching the peace process, including stopping the building of settlements in the occupied territories and adopting measures that could facilitate a peace conference.

Hurd said he presented a memo to the Israeli Government asking for an end to human rights violations in the occupied territories, pardoning Palestinian political prisoners, agreeing to a peace conference, and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The same sources said that Cairo rejected a British request regarding the need to make joint concessions that could help the convening of a peace conference. Cairo said that Israel is the one that should, in the first place, abandon its preconditions and submit to the will of the international community to set the peace process in motion.

It was also learned that Egypt presented an official memo to Hurd rejecting some Western proposals that seek to establish a state for the Kurds in Iraq. The memo stressed the need to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity under one authority. Cairo prepared this memo in light of information it received about Western plans being prepared to divide up Iraq, and that some Western countries subscribe to these plans.

Further on PLO Official's Visit to Cairo

Views Regional Conference, Delegation

NC0305210591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, has stated that the Palestinians are now listening to others, expressing their views, and maintaining an ongoing dialogue with Arab parties on the various ideas that have been put forward to achieve a settlement to the Middle East problems, particularly the Palestinian issue, in line with the efforts of the United States, Europe, and the Soviet Union.

In an exclusive statement to MENA during his visit to Cairo, Abu-Mazin said: We are now in the coordination stage in light of the current international efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement. He reiterated that this requires us to coordinate with the parties concerned and to exchange views on the basis of the information available to us, stressing that the key points of the peace proposals have yet to take final form.

Abu-Mazin reiterated that the PLO and the Palestinians are committed to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the subsequent UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem.

He said that the Security Council resolutions are clear, and the PLO adheres to [tamassukiha] U.S. President George Bush's interpretation of these resolutions. He said: We may not be entirely satisfied with President Bush's interpretation, but the U.S. President has referred to territory for peace, an Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and Israel's security and safety. He described these elements as sound bases and called on the United States to achieve them, as it is now the strongest superpower which succeeded in enforcing international legitimacy in Kuwait. He said the United States must enforce this legitimacy in Palestine as well.

On the idea of a regional conference to resolve the Middle East problem, he said: If the conference is held based on international legitimacy, which the Palestinians have endorsed in the Palestine National Council and which also is upheld by the world and President Bush, then I believe it will be possible to reach a solution, particularly if all parties show goodwill. If goodwill is absent, however, we will then see some parties impeding the peace process.

Abu-Mazin stressed that legitimacy is very important here. He said: If international and other concerned parties and the United Nations are represented in this proposed conference, then its label is not important. Let them call it what they want. This is not an issue to us.

Discussing the current Arab situation and the extent of Arab support for the Palestinian issue, Abu-Mazin said that there is great room for improvement. He expressed the hope that all Arab parties will move on to a new stage based on Arab solidarity and the desire to find a solution to the Palestinian issue. He added: This requires great effort.

Regarding the obstacles Israel is placing before forming a Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, Abu-Mazin refused to go into any detail on this matter. He said: Going into detail now would give pretexts to more details. He added: We are waiting for the results of the talks international parties are now holding with Israel, and we will make our opinion known after we learn them.

Departs After 'Constructive' Visit

NC0305145291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, left Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit during which he held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs.

The Fatah representative in Cairo, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, described Abu-Mazin's visit as friendly, constructive, and fruitful, adding that it included an assessment of the current situation at the Arab and international levels, as well as prospects for movement in the coming stage.

Tunisia's Ben Yahya Visits; Message for Mubarak

Arrives 3 May

NC0405064691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2241 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya arrived in Cairo tonight on a two-day visit to Egypt, the first visit at this level since the start of the Gulf crisis.

Ben Yahya was received upon arrival at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Tunisian Ambassador in Cairo Abdelhamid Ammar.

In an arrival statement, the Tunisian foreign affairs minister said he is carrying a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Husni Mubarak.

Mr. Ben Yahya added that his visit comes in response to an invitation from Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid. He said that his visit is a valuable opportunity for him to convey Tunisian President Ben Ali's message of appreciation, amity, and brotherhood to President Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and its people.

He pointed out that his visit falls within the framework of the policy established during President Ben Ali's visit

to Cairo, where the two leaders agreed on the exchange of visits and consultation between the countries' officials. He said: This is an opportunity for me to come to fraternal Egypt and discuss various current issues with my colleague Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid.

For his part, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed Mr. Ben Yahya and said: We are proud of this visit and consider it an assertion of the brotherly relations between Egypt and Tunisia. We will have the opportunity to talk and discuss issues concerning the two countries and the Arab region, as well as the current world changes.

He said that President Mubarak and Minister Habib Ben Yahya will meet Saturday for talks concerning the two countries.

Conveys Message to Mubarak

NC0405112791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1047 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message was conveyed by Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya, who is currently visiting Cairo, when President Mubarak received him today. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Later the Tunisian minister said that he delivered to President Mubarak a message from the Tunisian president, who asked him to convey words of appreciation, brotherhood, and love to President Mubarak, his government, and the fraternal people of Egypt. Ben Yahya said that he and President Mubarak discussed several issues of mutual interest concerning the current situation in the region and the future of joint Arab action.

He pointed out that Presidents Mubarak and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had shown sincere joint desire to promote Egyptian-Tunisian relations in all spheres and to give them new momentum in the forthcoming stage so that mutual interests will be closer and aspects of bilateral cooperation greater.

He emphasized that consultation and exchange of visits as a way of work by the two countries will improve further in the coming phase. He said that the next few days will witness the crystallization of new aspects of cooperation between the two countries and serious work to clear the air in the Arab world.

Asked whether his visit falls within the context of rectification of stands after the Gulf war, he replied: The Arab world has known many crises. This may have been the most difficult one, but with thinking and consideration it can be overcome so that amity will return to the Arab fold by giving the Arab League an impetus in order to clear the air in Arab relations. He said: Our duty in the Arab world is to favor the interests and future of our Arab peoples, especially since clearing the atmosphere and the work for the Arab nation's interest and future are the most important issues we are currently facing.

The Tunisian minister expressed his hope that the efforts currently exerted in the Arab arena will achieve the pan-Arab goal: The establishment of peace in the region and finding a radical comprehensive solution to the region's issues within the context of international legitimacy, especially the Palestinian issue. He said Tunisia and Egypt are working to achieve this goal.

Meets 'Abd-al-Majid; No Details

NC0405121591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya. They discussed the current Arab issues and the efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

The official talks between the two ministers will be held tomorrow.

Departs 6 May

NC0605082991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 May 91

[Excerpt] Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya left Cairo this morning at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt, during which President Husni Mubarak received him. [passage omitted]

U.S. Official in Cairo To Discuss Disarmament

Talks With Foreign Ministry Official

NC0505133791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Egyptian-U.S. talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today. Dr. Munir Zahran, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks. Richard Clarke, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, chaired the U.S. delegation.

Dr. Zahran stated after the talks that they discussed the details of President Husni Mubarak's initiative to free the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction and ways to implement the initiative after the world has expressed support for it in UN Security Council Resolution 687. They also discussed the role that Egypt and the United States can play in achieving security and stability in the Middle East.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with the U.S. assistant secretary of state earlier. They discussed all issues connected with President Mubarak's initiative to free the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction.

Discussion With Abu-Talib

NC0505144991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, Armed Forces commander in chief and minister of defense and war production, met with Richard Clarke, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs and his delegation, at the Defense Ministry today.

They exchanged views on the possibility of adopting an arms reduction policy in the Middle East, the role arms-exporting countries can play in this, ways of implementing President Mubarak's initiative to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, ways of bolstering the peace process and achieving stability in the region, and the U.S. military aid program to Egypt.

The U.S. ambassador to Cairo also attended the meeting.

Turkish Envoy Denies Sale of Water to Israel

NC0205140191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Turkish Ambassador Candemir Onhon has denied reports that Turkey plans to send water to Israel. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said such reports are baseless.

He said that Turkey has launched a project known as "Water for Peace" to send water to Arab countries. He added that this project involves two pipelines, the first of which will be used to send water from Turkey to Saudi Arabia through the Gulf states, while the second will be used to send water to Syria and Jordan. He stated that the second pipeline will not pass through Israeli territory and that Israel will not buy water from Turkey.

The ambassador noted that Turkey has submitted a proposal to the countries concerned, which will be discussed at an international conference on water resources in the Middle East. The conference is scheduled for Istanbul in November, and Egypt will attend.

Paper Decries Israeli Stand on Peace Conference

NC0505084991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM denounces Israel's obstacles to the diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper asserts that reports about a cabinet crisis in Israel between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi over the proposed peace conference is in fact a made-up dispute. The fact, the paper says, is that the peace efforts are encountering the usual Israeli obstacles. It says the Israelis are masters of fabrication, noting Israel's impediments and quibbles to thwart the peace efforts.

The paper says Israel has abridged the proposed international conference into a regional one on the pretext that there is no call for expanding its scope because that change is merely a matter of form and bilateral negotiations are the basis and the aim of any negotiations.

The paper points out that the Shamir government began to create problems over the regional conference, which it had proposed, on the grounds that bilateral negotiations will take precedence over the regional negotiations following the first procedural session.

In conclusion, the paper says any approaches Israel does not want are removed gradually in favor of what only Israel wants. All this, the paper adds, takes place while the Arab side still awaits a happy ending.

Israeli Supporters 'Fed Up' With 'Arrogance'

NC0605072391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 6 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel's Claims Fall Before the Truth", AL-AKHBAR writes in its editorial today: Israel has consistently rejected all the international organizations' unanimous resolutions that call on it to evacuate the territories it has usurped by force. Israel continues to ignore these resolutions as if it is an entity above all laws. The Tel Aviv authorities' insistence on continuing its seizure of Palestinian territories and the establishment of Jewish settlements on them undoubtedly is evidence of the arrogance and impudence that make the Israeli leaders believe that they can continue to challenge world public opinion indefinitely without anyone daring to oppose them.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Israel has continued this unethical stand based on the long-term support of the superpower that went too far in spoiling and protecting it. But U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent slap in the face to Israeli Minister Ari'el Sharon in Washington shows that U.S. officials are getting fed up with the Israeli officials' impudence and persistence in foiling every effort made to restore security and peace to the Middle East. The entire world is interested in seeing calm prevail and tension disappear in this region.

The paper concludes by saying that recent statements by U.S. and European officials calling on Israel to halt the building of settlements in the occupied territories, believing them to be a major obstacle to peace, might prod Israel's leaders into rethinking their stand—a stand not supported by even their closest allies.

Sudan

National Conference Approves Statute, Charter

EA0305210891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA)—In the morning session presided by 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, the national founding conference on political system has approved the statute, national charter and issued the political communique.

The chairman of the charter committee, Gen (retired) Rashad Makki, presented the committee's report. He said that the charter pointed out that the traditional forces have failed to realize post-independence goals and led the country to the darkness of being part [as received] and disintegration till God sends to Sudan the National Salvation Revolution.

He explained that the intellectual origins confirmed the Afro-Arab amalgamation which represents the essence of the national Sudanese identity. He confirmed that national unity is a vital issue to realize security and prosperity for Sudanese people.

The conference has also approved in the same session the statute. Brig PSC [passed staff college] Hassan Hamadayn, rapporteur of the statute committee, presented (?in) amendments following deliberations. Amendments concerning constitution and law will be subject to further deliberations to guarantee wider popular participation.

He added that the statute stipulated that the legal (?quorum) for conferences is the absolute majority and the duration of the statute is four years.

On the other hand, the conference delegated the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council to build the political system within a framework of time and rules that guarantee stability till a president is elected and a secretariat for the national conference is formed to start working according to certain criterion governed by the conference's recommendations.

Resolutions Issued

EA0405221091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1950 GMT 3 May 91

[Resolutions and recommendations of the national conference on the political system held 29 April-3 May]

[Text] This evening, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, attended the final session of the constituent national conference on the political system, which was in session from 29 April to 3 May. His excellency received from Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, RCC member, deputy chairman of the Political Committee, and rapporteur of the conference, the resolutions and recommendations of the conference. His excellency delivered them to the chairmen of the people's committees from the different states. Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah read out the resolutions, which declare:

1. Approval of the conference system as based on consultation through the people's and sectoral conferences.
2. Approval of the national charter.
3. Approval of the basic statutes law, with the provision that matters relating to local government, legal, and constitutional affairs are referred to the competent persons in the technical committees.
4. Establishment of a secretariat of the national political conference to supervise the political system. A national council shall be established to take responsibility for consultation during the constituent phase while at the same time holding consultations with all the sectors to establish the secretariat.

The conference also approved the political statement, which stated:

1. The revolution's choice of the federal system as a form of government has strengthened trust between the north and the south and opened the door to sharing power and resources and effecting a balanced development. The outlaws have no further argument and the conference calls on them to lay down their arms and join the ranks of the citizens.

2. The revolution has adopted the system of national conferences thereby putting an end to lengthy struggles for power and thus restoring it to the masses.

3. The Sudan we want cannot be established without justice, sacrifice, self-denial, and the unification of ranks. The conference calls for the coming stage to be one of peace, unity, and construction. It also calls on the sincere from among the sons of the homeland to work for that.

4. The conference is aware of the fact that the new orientation of Sudan may excite the centers of Western propaganda to seek new claims to weave out strife, but the conference stresses that the determination of the revolution will not weaken and that its march will not stop because God's promise is true in that he will not allow the unbelievers to overcome the believers.

Al-Bashir Closes Conference

EA0405204691 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 May 91

[Speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir at closing of national constitutional conference on the political system, at Friendship Hall in Khartoum; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the most merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Brother participants and honorable guests: peace, mercy, and the blessings of Almighty God be upon you. No words or tokens of thanks are sufficient to express the overflowing joy and the great happiness I feel at what I have witnessed and

heard in your wide-ranging constitutional conference, a conference called for by every sincere patriot who is keen on the interests of this motherland and the welfare of its citizens.

We were all pleased by the participation of friends and brothers, Arabs and Muslims, at the head of which was Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the historic leadership in the sisterly Jamahiriyah; and brother Omar Arteh Ghalib, the Somali prime minister, and the delegations accompanying them. The value of our happiness was further increased by the activities of the intellectuals from Arab and Islamic movements who came to attend the popular conference on our issues and who played an active role in our internal political dialogue.

The spirit of participation was high, as was the manner in which all the participants felt the need for an attentive participation apart from greed and personal goals. You were all a boost to Sudan at the present moment and a fine aspiration for its prosperous and radiant future. The revolution was thankful to the conference when it said to the prisoners: You are free to go, and pardoned every outlaw, rebel, and dissident, calling on them all to participate without being isolated, restricted, or being given instructions.

We renew our call to all to join the ranks of the homeland and to forget all the differences which have obstructed us and led Sudan to the abyss of retrogression. This system is for all and the call to participate in it is directed to all. So come to it, accept it with a pure patriotism and be endowed with sincerity and the spirit of diligence and endeavor so that all of us may rise to the heights of what we envision for this beloved country and the prosperity and welfare we are aiming for.

Brother participants, your excellencies the guests, you will all have noticed through the march of our revolution that the revolution has committed itself to certain principles. We want to emphasize them again. There is a stress on a spirit of seriousness which is represented in credibility, originality, and impartiality. The credibility is in the revolution's commitment to the agenda of peace, education, economy, and the political system. The revolution's other commitments have sprung from the recommendations of various conferences. As for impartiality, it is concerned with the implementation of the principles of purity, fair play, and rejection of evil, purity of leadership, its profound (?understanding) of the greater importance of the hereafter over the world of today, its affection for one another, and distancing itself from evil. These values comprise a real immunity from failure and ruin. A precept to be followed is not set by appearances, pictures, or structures, which any political system possesses.

Dear brothers, among the principles to which we are committed is that of legality: the revolution's legality, which has sprung from the mutual confidence between it and the people. This bond, which was formed by experience and interaction, is proof of the revolution's credibility, which is being entrenched daily. This confidence means that the revolution will gradually hand power over to the people concerning the economic reforms and issues of legislation and will in general engage in power sharing. This principle can be relied upon and removes from the hearts any suspicion of deceit or hoodwinking. The revolution's practice of fulfilling its pledges up to now is renewed proof of this confidence.

The other principle is that of gradualization, which in another way is accompanied by the principle of revolution. Gradualization does not mean indecision, laxity, or defeat, but rather discernment, firmness, and (?success) in implementation. Dear brothers, we are confident in ourselves and in legality. This makes us feel convinced of our direction and open in our work without any fear or paranoia. Tolerance is an original element of the revolution's fabric and is [word indistinct] on which the revolution does not overly concern itself. Firmness, in its place, is an entrenched custom which the revolution can implement whenever the need arises. The revolution does not prefer its use, for the final medicine is cauterization.

Your excellencies, this is the spirit of the new era which we honor and whose characteristics have been formed by this conference and by your discussions during the conference. The merits of this are due to you and to your efforts and your active participation. We owe you thanks for what you have achieved. God favors virtue. Peace, mercy, and the blessing of Almighty God be upon you. [applause]

Al-Bashir on 'Conspiracy' Facing Nation

EA0305111591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1034 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 May (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council, RCC, chairman has underlined that Sudan's orientation after the Gulf war aims at patching the Arab nation rift and achieving its unity to build its future. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, speaking in a press conference, called the Arab to attach due concern to the Palestinian cause as the first and last Arab issue, believing that all the ongoing attempts would not settle the question. Gen. al-Bashir revealed that all countries which stood against the presence of the foreign troops in the region and opposed the aggression against Iraq are vulnerable to the imperialist conspiracy, urging coordinating efforts to challenge these plots.

On the application of the new political system, Gen al-Bashir said the system will take effect as of next July, with the establishment of the constituent congresses expected to be completed during the next year to reach the stage of local rule. No political organisation will be allowed out of the political system structure, Gen al-Bashir underscored.

Political detainees now released totalled at 344, he said, noting that guard on the houses of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud was lifted. Release of political detainees decision, he said, came as an initiative from the revolution and not as a result of any consultations with any other part.

On the application of the Islamic Shari'ah, Gen. al-Bashir explained that it should have applied since independence because the Sudan, since before colonial period, was ruled by the Shari'ah. Besides, the majority of the people support the immediate implementation.

Gen. al-Bashir told the press conference that Sudan is facing an imperialist conspiracy for its attitudes it took since the advent of the revolution. He vowed that there would be no retrogression and they are confident in the ability of the revolution and the people for realising the aspirations of Sudan.

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

EA0505165291 Khartoum SUNA in English 0911 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 May (SUNA)—Chinese deputy foreign minister arrived here yesterday on a several-day official visit. During his stay here, the visiting Chinese official will hold talks with chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and other senior officials for discussing means of promoting bilateral relations between the two countries. The Chinese official was received at Khartoum airport by Foreign Minister Ali Almad Sahlul.

Kuwait

UK's Hurd Gives News Conference, Reviews Visit

LD0305183191 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that his talks with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir; and Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister; dealt with the situation in Kuwait and Iraq, the perils of the Iraqi regime remaining in place, and the security situation in the region.

He added at a news conference this evening that his highness the amir told him that there are no ongoing violations of human rights and that those who have broken the law are standing trial under the observation of international organizations.

In this respect, Hurd said that instability in Kuwait is natural on account of the circumstances left by the unjust Iraqi occupation and expressed his hope that stability would return to Kuwait soon.

Hurd explained that the Iraqi regime does not pose any danger to the country now, due to the presence of international observers on the border between Kuwait and Iraq.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Arrives 5 May

LD0505143991 London KUNA in Arabic 1353 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May (KUNA)—The French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas arrived here this afternoon from Tehran on a brief visit to Kuwait.

During the visit, the French minister will meet Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. He will also inspect the areas destroyed during the war and see some of the burning oil wells from a helicopter.

Dumas' talks in Kuwait will include the situation in the region after the liberation of Kuwait; the future prospects for stability, peace, and security in the region; bilateral relations; and France's readiness to participate in the efforts to reconstruct Kuwait.

Earlier today Dumas concluded a visit to Tehran during which it was agreed to hold a French-Iranian summit in Paris. A preliminary solution was also reached for the French-Iranian financial dispute.

Received by Amir

LD0505160791 London KUNA in Arabic 1547 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA)—His highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, today received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, the minister of information.

The minister of information accompanied the guest to inspect the destruction left behind by the treacherous Iraqi aggressor.

Deportee Assistance Promised

LD0605074391 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Roland Dumas who was in Kuwait yesterday promised the emir France's help in trying to obtain the repatriation of several thousands of Kuwatis who were deported to Iraq during the Gulf war.

Iraqi Compensation Postponement Request Viewed

LD0505084491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait announced last night that the Iraqi regime's request for a five-year postponement of the payment of compensation for the damages inflicted on Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion, is a trick to reduce the percentage of Iraqi oil revenue to be paid as compensation for destroying Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Iraqi regime's request, Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, the Kuwaiti permanent representative to the United Nations, told KUNA that the aim of the Iraqi letter is clearly to influence the special UN compensation commission handling this matter. [passage omitted]

Abu-al-Hasan said that the Iraqi regime's request for a five-year postponement of the payment of compensation contradicts the spirit of the UN Security Council's resolutions and the interests of the Kuwaiti people, with their current and future losses. The acceptance of the request would prolong the suffering of the Kuwaiti people and the peoples of the 104 countries that were affected by the Iraqi aggression.

He told the press that the Iraqi proposal is silly and Iraq is trying to deceive the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council is alert, however, contrary to what the Iraqi regime may think, he said.

Abu-al-Hasan pointed out that Kuwait loses $125 million in oil revenue every day as a result of the fires that the Iraqi forces deliberately started in the Kuwaiti oil wells when they were defeated in the war to liberate Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Condemns 'Campaigns' Against Saudi Arabia

LD0505154991 London KUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA)—Kuwait today condemned the unjust campaign launched by some circles against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stance regarding the efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis.

The condemnation was articulated by Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, following a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the council of ministers. Al-'Uthman declared Kuwait's pride in and appreciation of "the firm and principled stances" of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Following is the text of the statement made by the minister of state for cabinet affairs:

The Council of Ministers held a meeting at its office this morning chaired by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the council of ministers. Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, made the following statement: [passage omitted] The Council reviewed the unjust campaigns launched by some circles against the statement made by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, concerning the Kingdom's stance regarding the serious endeavors aimed at finding a speedy settlement in the region that would consolidate security and stability in it.

While expressing its extreme indignation and condemnation of that spurious clamor, the Council of Ministers stresses its pride in and appreciation of the firm and principled stances of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. These stances—which are not open to argument or doubt—reflect the Kingdom's sincere eagerness to make every effort and offer every kind of assistance that would contribute to the firm establishment of the pillars of justice and rightness. [passage omitted]

Then, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister explained the results of the visit which British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hurd paid to the country recently, as well as the issues which were covered during this visit. These focused on the latest political developments, the security situation in the region, and the distinguished bilateral relations existing between the two friendly countries, as well as the means to develop them in the various fields. [passage omitted]

Oman

UAE, Oman Agree To Exchange Ambassadors

JN0405195591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Muscat, 4 May (WAKH)—His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman have expressed their concern to make the Arabian Gulf a secure region dominated by stability and progress.

A joint statement issued this evening in Abu Dhabi and Muscat on the visit made by the UAE president to Oman stressed the need to provide and bolster this stability, as well as security, in harmony with the common interests of the regional states.

In the statement, both sides expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the fraternal and friendly countries to help the Gulf Cooperation Council member states liberate Kuwait and restore legitimacy.

Regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the efforts to resolve the Palestine question within the framework of the UN resolutions, the statement emphasized the need to render success to those efforts in order to achieve a comprehensive and permanent solution to the Middle East problem, establish security, and remove elements of instability in the region.

The statement refers to the establishment of a higher UAE-Omani committee to coordinate cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The two countries also decided that diplomatic representation between them should be at the highest level, and that ambassadors will be exchanged in the near future.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives Jeddah 3 May

LD0305212391 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Jeddah, May 3, SPA—Mr. Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary arrived here tonight on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was greeted at the airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Alan Munro, the British ambassador to the Kingdom; and a number of high ranking officials.

Meets With King Fahd

LD0405194891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Jeddah, 4 May 91, SPA—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Excellency British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his accompanying delegation today.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh region; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, the foreign minister; His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the information minister; and 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri, the Foreign Ministry's undersecretary of state in charge of political affairs. It was also attended by British Ambassador Alan Jordan Monroe.

Relations Discussed

LD0405110191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met at the conference palace in Jeddah this morning with UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is visiting the Kingdom.

The current situation in the region and relations between the two countries were discussed during the talks. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri; Dr. Nizar Madani, director of the Western Department at the Foreign Ministry; Alan Munro, the UK ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and the delegation accompanying the UK foreign secretary.

Gives News Conference

LD0505004991 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpt] The British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, has welcomed the aid given by Saudi Arabia to the Iraqi refugees and its reception of thousands of them, and considered it a humane gesture. In a speech that he read at the beginning of the news conference he held at the Conference Palace in Jeddah tonight, his excellency said: Saudi Arabia and Britain were principal participants in the military operations of liberating Kuwait, which were crowned with great victory. He added: Britain and Saudi Arabia will become closer and cooperate more for the sake of achieving peace in the region.

The British foreign secretary expressed his belief that Iraq cannot return to the international community as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power. He said it is necessary to continue the sanctions against Iraq during this period. The British secretary stressed that Saudi Arabia and Britain are committed to Iraq's unity and the safety of its borders.

Mr. Douglas Hurd pointed out that Britain has no intention to keep forces in the region if the countries of the region do not wish so.

He welcomed the initiative undertaken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker toward finding a solution to the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that Saudi support to this initiative is very important. The British foreign secretary reiterated his country's criticism of the new settlement built by Israel in the occupied territories, and he considered it an obstruction in the road to a solution.

He pointed out that he has recently visited Saudi Arabia a number of times and conducted fruitful talks with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

The British foreign secretary was asked about the strategic reasons for Saudi participation in the proposed peace conference. He said: I do not see any reasons for this, this is not a central subject, and it is not a basic issue of the matter. He added: I consider that the participation of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries by supporting the initiative undertaken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is an important and necessary matter.

Concerning a question on the regional peace conference and Europe's participation in [words indistinct], the British foreign secretary said: We support the convening of a regional conference to bring about peace in the region. Europe's participation in this issue might not be needed at the moment, although it may be needed later.

Concerning economic cooperation between his country and the Kingdom, especially concerning the al-Yamamah project, following the events in the Gulf, his excellency said: The al-Yamamah project is proceeding in a positive way, and the Gulf war and its developments did not have a big impact on the project. In this respect, he pointed out that economic cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britain is part of this project.

Regarding the number of British forces remaining in the Gulf, his excellency said: There are 1,500 British soldiers, and these forces will be withdrawn in the coming weeks. He said Britain does not intend its forces to remain in the region. He added: If a Gulf state requested British support in the area of security and the (?deployment) of forces, then Britain will consider the sending of air or land forces for (?temporary) stationing. [passage omitted]

Statement on Reaction to Peace Moves Cited

LD0305135391 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] A responsible source today made the following statement to SPA: While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aspires to the success, unity, and intensification of efforts for the sake of achieving security, stability, and peace in the region and benefit from the good and positive elements which have been produced by the current phase; while all the countries and peoples, bodies, organizations, political forces, and various institutions of the world should be optimistic about the persistent efforts made by U.S. President George Bush, and promoted by his Secretary of State James Baker; while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the other sincere brother Arabs, has been and is speaking at length for making contributions toward the destiny of this nation by pushing forth these efforts and moves; out of its concern for the Arab nation's supreme interests to achieve joint objectives, and working to promote its historic responsibilities toward security, peace, and stability in the world through serious and constructive action in order to end the causes of tension and disturbances in the region and the world, foremost among which is a sincere and constructive search for a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine issue, the regaining of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict on practical and reasonable bases; at this time in particular, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is

surprised by some stances and statements which can only be described as not benefiting the cause of security, peace, and stability in the region, not consolidating the bases of international legitimacy, and not responding to the logic of justice, equality, and fairness in dealing with the region's issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestine issue.

Otherwise, why all this unjust clamor following the release of the statement announced by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the Kingdom on 22 April 1991? That statement plainly reflects the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's clear, candid, and firm stance vis-a-vis the persistent efforts made toward reaching a peaceful settlement in the region by exploiting the present positive elements to reach that objective as a means of consolidating security and strengthening stability, and as a serious contribution toward building a world order based on justice, freedom, and peace.

The source added: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has summarized its stance in the following points:

1. The Kingdom will work hard in order to achieve peace in the Middle East.

2. The participation of the states concerned about the progress of negotiations is considered by the Kingdom as a correct and apt formula for starting the peace process in earnest. Very briefly, this means that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the basis of its position as an Arab country, and through a single objective perception of the issues of destiny in the region generally, in particular the Palestine issue, which it shares with all the brothers, is concerned with reaching a real peace which would be in harmony with the UN resolutions, would affirm justice, return legitimate rights to its owners, and would create firm bases for coexistence, security, and stability on the bases of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

We were sincerely expecting that everyone would understand this stance, realize its dimensions and significance, and would concentrate their efforts with ours on pushing Israel toward the peace table, instead of wasting time and putting obstacles in the path leading to peace.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose policies and stances have been misunderstood, does not need to reaffirm that it will stand by any sincere effort to achieve peace, and it will do its utmost toward that end.

The source went on to say:

The Kingdom has elucidated its clear stance in the aforementioned statement, which we summarize in the following clauses:

1. The time has come for efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine issue.

2. Full support to the U.S. efforts to convene an early peace conference in order to achieve that purpose—in view of the efforts being based on international legitimacy—and the call for a comprehensive solution based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

3. In view of what has been confirmed by the events witnessed in the region since 1967, time is of the utmost importance, and the will of peace must impose itself on all the parties.

Could we have done something else?

The source said in his statement:
Our amazement was high here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a result of the voices raised following that clear statement because we did not expect people to argue and accuse the Kingdom of weakening the peace efforts. We expected those enthusiastic people to be aware that their historic responsibilities make it imperative that they should support the efforts of the United States, and to encourage all the parties to move toward searching for the ideal ways to reach a complete, comprehensive, and just peace.

Tomorrow those people will realize that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a country of principles which has sound stances and convictions based on wisdom, logic, and morality in dealing with friends everywhere, and that it respects its obligations, pledges, and stances. It is aware that it is its credibility which has enabled it to face many events and crises, and that it is its moderate and calm policy which has gained it everyone's respect.

Fortunately, all the countries of the world which we deal with—particularly the United States—are aware of all these facts and are in agreement with us in all the stances and policies we adopt and execute, which are based on loyalty and respect for commitment, and which depend on constructive cooperation based on mutual respect and trust.

On this basis, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia cannot see any reason for all that clamor. The clamor is based on erroneous concepts and deductions which lack precision in their analysis and conclusions.

The source concluded his statement by saying:
Finally, on the basis of total confidence in our constructive stances, correct Arab policies, and our distinctive Islamic attitude, we can stress that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is eager to work within the framework of an international system based on cooperation and the firm establishment of the will of peace and stability in the world. We will continue moving along this path with strength, firmness, and determination to establish the strongest links with everyone and to realize the interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Saddam Visits Mosul, Meets With Officials

JN0405170291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Mosul, Northern Iraq, 4 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said the march will forge ahead and become even better than it was before. What matters, he added, is the glory and the state of pride that has been recorded and is still being recorded for Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that if the white garment gets dirty, then, God willing, the Iraqis through their cooperation will be able to wash it and the white garment will become clean, as they wish it to be and as Arabs and Muslims everywhere wish it to be.

During a visit today to Mosul, the center of Ninawa Governorate, where his excellency met with a number of officials and notables in the governorate, the president said: The lessons were very serious for all Iraqis. They were deep lessons for those with principles, so that now they will cling more and more to their principles; for those who deviated from the line of principles to return to that line; for those who were not cautious to be more cautious; for those who have not worked to work; and for those who have not built to build more and more. This is how life goes.

His excellency the president added: These lessons will heal numerous malaises within our society. Likewise, they will warn zealous and honorable people against many things which they may have been forgetful about. The reference here is to those who made mistakes, as well as to those who maintained their previous positions.

His excellency the president affirmed that life does not fight its antithesis with the sword alone. Rather, it fights its antithesis with the pen, the sword, and the economy. Everything plays its role in its sphere. As for the heights reached by flags, they are determined by flag masts, the president added.

His excellency the president said: There are flags which are higher than others. There are men who continued to hold the banner firmly, whereas there are men who had different calculations under certain circumstances. There are men who cannot be called men. Likewise, there are people registered as Iraqis, even though they are not Iraqis. Furthermore, there are people who came across the borders and collaborated with the foreigner.

His excellency the president added: God willing, we will work together to tackle the malaise if it is found in our midst after we diagnose it properly and close the existing loopholes. Thereafter, the march will forge ahead and will become even better than it was before. What matters is the glory and the state of pride that has been recorded and is still being recorded for Iraq.

Commenting on the implications of sacrifice demonstrated by the valiant sons of Iraq in their courageous confrontation of the mobs who wanted to fragment Iraq's unity, the president said: This sums up the meaning of zeal, patriotism, and honor within the ranks of faith. The cruel conduct of the evil ones demonstrates the character of the lowly ones on the other side, be they international or from within the region.

His excellency stressed that history confirms that those without roots can never have fruitful branches, and what concerns us is the good roots.

The leader president stood on the balcony of the governorate's building to greet the citizens of the city who gathered in their thousands to welcome his excellency and to express their great joy at this historic meeting. In their shouts, the city masses renewed the pledge of love and absolute loyalty to the leader president and their constant readiness to protect the precious soil of the homeland from the sinful aggressors.

His excellency the leader president fired a few shots from his personal gun in honor of the flag that remained raised by the men in Mosul and did not fall from their hands, just as his excellency did during his visits to the Governorates of Diyala and al-Anbar.

Ninawa Governor Tahir Tawfiq al-'Ani and the comrade secretaries of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party branches in Ninawa and Mosul briefed the leader president on the heroic positions and the great courage of the residents of Ninawa Governorate, who firmly kept the flag flying high in the face of the U.S.-Atlantic aggression and the acts of sabotage and rioting. They praised the citizens' Arab zeal in rebuilding what was destroyed by the aggression with the enthusiasm of stalwart men.

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Regional Command Meeting

JN0605073491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0702 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil attended the meeting.

Cabinet Reviews Political, Economic Matters

JN0505140591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi today chaired a Council of Ministers session. The prime minister's deputies Tariq 'Aziz and Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi attended.

In a statement to INA following the session, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said the council heard a report by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on the results of his recent tour of the Arab countries, which included Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Algeria.

The council also heard a report by Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil on the Islamic Arab

People's Conference held in Khartoum last week, and the broad solidarity the conference showed on all levels with Iraq and its courageous leadership in their confrontation of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

The minister of culture and information added that the cabinet discussed the business on its agenda and made the necessary decisions. The agenda included approving a draft law amending the Iraqi Central Bank law with the aim of allowing the private sector to set up privately-owned banks as public companies that would be established in accordance with the companies law and under the supervision of the Iraqi Central Bank.

He also said that the cabinet discussed modernizing the investment plan for 1991, which has been approved early this year, and which concentrated on repairing electric power, oil refineries, crude oil pumping, communications projects, and basic industrial projects, especially the projects concerning foodstuffs and the basic materials needed for operating some of the major projects. The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of non-essential projects until next year.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi concluded his statement by saying that the cabinet will discuss this plan again in its next session after the ministers of industry and military industrialization, oil, agriculture and irrigation, and planning review it and make comments. The comments will be discussed together with the amendment of the ordinary budget for the remaining period of 1991.

More Memos Sent to UN on U.S.-Saudi Overflights

1-2 May Activity

JN0305202791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] U.S. and Saudi aircraft have continued to violate Iraq's airspace. Iraq's permanent UN representative addressed a memo to the UN secretary general saying that on 1-2 May, U.S. and Saudi aircraft violated Iraqi airspace, conducting 45 sorties in 22 formations and one individual sortie.

He said the U.S. and Saudi aircraft were identified as F-14's and F-15's flying at an altitude of 4-8 km at 600-800 km per hour.

Iraq's UN representative added that the aircraft centered their activity over Baghdad, al-Ramadi, (?al-Zubayr), al-Rashid, Samirra', and Mosul, with the aim of observation and (?harassment).

2-3 May Overflights

JN0405202991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] U.S. and Saudi aircraft have again been violating Iraqi airspace.

A memo sent to the secretary general of the United Nations by Iraq's permanent UN representative said that on 2-3 May, Saudi and American aircraft flew 50 sorties in 23 formations and four individual sorties.

The memo identified the U.S. and Saudi aircraft as F-14's and F- 15's flying at 600-700 km per hour at altitudes ranging between 3 and 7 km.

The overflights concentrated on Baghdad, al-'Aziziyah, al- Qadisiyah, al-Samawah, al-Kut, Samarra' and al-Najaf, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation.

Memo to UN Says Iran Violated Cease-Fire 2 May

JN0405202491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] New York, United Nations, 4 May (INA)—Iran has continued to violate the clauses of the cease-fire agreement with Iraq with a new violation.

In a memo addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations said that on 2 May, a group arriving from the Iranian side, approximately 40-strong, attacked Iraqi forward units near al-Rawtah junction in the southern sector with 81-mm mortars and light machine guns.

The envoy pointed out that this new Iranian violation confirms the Iranian Government's insistence and deliberate attempts to infringe on Iraq's sovereignty and security. He also reaffirmed that Iraq holds the Iranian Government responsible for all damage resulting from this violation, and the ensuing consequences.

In a second memo, Iraq informed the United Nations of new Iranian violations of the clauses of the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran.

In his memo today, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that on 19 March 1991, the district officer of the city of Sardasht entered the Raniyah border area. On 20 March 1991, a surveying engineer called Bahroz Hashim from Tehran entered through Hajj 'Umran-Shahedan road and was accompanied by five soldiers from the 64th Division.

The Iraqi envoy also said on 22 March 1991, a vehicle from the Ramadan intelligence center, driven by an Iranian called Yadallah Abdallah and accompanied by five soldiers, entered the Shahedan area. On 25 April 1991, a unit from Khomeyni's Revolutionary Guards entered the area of Darband-Bayulah [name as received] in the Khanaqin sector to gather information on the region.

Iraq's envoy said that 30 men from Khomeyni's guards entered through the Bamu [name as received] region to inspect the site of a bridge in the area of Midan-Khanaqin.

The envoy called on the United Nations to take the necessary measures outlined in the principles and clauses of the UN Charter to stop those violations.

Trade Minister Comments on Effects of Blockade

JN0505081091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 May 91 p 10

[Text] Iraqi Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asked the world to consider the simplest of man's rights; that is, to live in peace and obtain food and medicine, pointing out that Iraq has provided the Security Council with a list of approximately $1 million worth of food and medicine that Iraq needs.

At a press conference, Dr. Salih also asserted that the Iraqi people have been suffering from the blockade for more than 10 months, and that they have been denied basic food and medicine due to unprecedented unethical, inhuman conduct.

He added that the present delay at the Security Council and the United Nations regarding allowing Iraq to import these basic and vital materials comes from the consideration that the Iraqis are not a people who deserve to live. Dr. Salih asserted that the resolution imposing economic blockade on Iraq was, in the first place, a prejudgment to create famine, spread epidemics, and annihilate the Iraqi people.

He explained that Iraq has requested that it be allowed to import food and medicine by repaying in Iraqi oil or frozen funds abroad. He added that we have forwarded purchasing orders to a number of international companies, including some U.S. companies, to import foodstuffs, including meat, wheat, oil, rice, sugar, and other items. He noted that we are purchasing this material from them while having frozen funds in these countries.

Dr. Salih pointed out that Iraq needs about $3 million worth of foodstuffs in ordinary circumstances, considering that a strategic reserve would be available to the government in ordinary circumstances. Nevertheless, we are only asking for $1 million worth of foodstuffs to meet only primary needs.

The Iraqi trade minister said that international statistics indicate that Iraq purchases around 3.8 million tonnes of wheat annually, broken down as follows: 1 million tonnes imported from the United States; 80,000 tonnes from Canada, 1-1.5 million tonnes from Australia, and the rest from the European Community.

Iraq also imports annually around 650-700,000 tonnes of rice; around 650-700,000 tonnes of sugar; around 60,000 tonnes of tea; 250,000 tonnes of vegetable oil; and 18,000 tonnes of milk for babies under one year, and around 40,000 tonnes of milk for children above one year.

The Iraqi trade minister asserted that at present his country has only oil and its frozen funds to purchase food and medications urgently needed for the Iraqi people.

Commenting on the remaining Iraqi strategic food reserve, Dr. Salih said: We are dividing the food reserve equally among the sons of the Iraqi people in spite of the looting, burning, and sabotage of food stores by the saboteurs in northern and southern Iraq. He noted that the looting and sabotage were part of the plan aimed at destroying Iraq.

He added: The delivery of foodstuffs by the government was disrupted during the period when the saboteurs were present in northern and southern Iraq, but the first day the purging was done, food assistance and other supplies to all citizens resumed as required.

Concerning Iraqi Kurdistan, the trade minister said: We are sending daily convoys of flour and foodstuffs to all Kurds, including those who are outside Iraq in the camps set up by the allied forces. He noted that their food rations are available and guaranteed at the centers in the governorates of al- Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk, and Irbil. He pointed out that the allied forces have denied entry to some of the Kurds to obtain foodstuffs, which led to the death of some children in the allies' camps.

Dr. Salih asked: If the world pretends to respect human rights, justice, and democracy, then why does it daily impose new, impossible conditions on Iraq, especially since the reasons for the economic blockade are gone.

He added: The Arab citizen is now convinced that the principle of human rights is not really honored in the United States and the Western countries because this concept is linked to the interests of these countries. For man has a right to live, but they have denied this and imposed a 10-month-old blockade. The Iraqi people have withstood the cruelty of the savage, destructive onslaught. They will hold their ground and will always hold heads high.

Dr. Salih asked: Can the people of the United States, France, or Britain, survive if food were denied to any of their areas for 10 months, as happened with the Iraqi people?

Dr. Salih noted that an Algerian ship which was bound for al-'Aqabah port carrying baby milk for Iraq was denied access by the U.S. Navy a few days ago despite the Security Council Sanctions Committee's prior consent.

Dr. Salih asked: Why does the world apply naked international double standards in its economic resolutions? For the United States has allowed itself to receive an Iraqi oil shipment which it purchased before the 2 August, 1990, but prevented Iraq from obtaining the baby milk shipment which we also purchased prior to the 2 August, 1990, and is currently present at Marseilles Port.

On the domestic effects of the continuation of the economic blockade, Dr. Salih said: Iraqi markets are currently suffering from high prices. The black market is widespread, because the demand for goods is higher than the supply. This prompted merchants to exploit the foodstuffs they have in illegal ways, and this is natural for a country under siege.

Also, the trade minister indicated that the stoppage of production of local factories resulting from shortages in fuel had initially made prices go up and resulted in shortages in materials. But because fuel is now being distributed as in the past, this will make the prices of locally-produced materials go down.

The trade minister pointed out that Iraq does not depend much on the humanitarian aid thankfully sent by fraternal countries because we consume more than 300,000 tonnes of foodstuffs distributed by the government to the citizenry, as well as what is distributed by the private sector.

Dr. Salih said that Jordan—the king, government, and people—have offered a great deal to Iraq. Suffice to mention that their genuine Arab support for the Iraqi people during their difficult ordeal would not be forgotten by any Iraqi as long as he lives and would remind the Iraqis that they were not alone in the confrontation.

Dr. Salih asserted that Iraq would depend on Jordan in the future for the transit of food and medical materials. He said that we would not ask Jordan to do anything that violates Security Council resolutions. We will import via al-'Aqabah port the goods that are approved internationally, in addition to the delivery of goods which have been impounded at various international ports for months—something which is, in the first place, monitored by U.S. warships in the Red Sea.

Government Lifts Censorship of Foreign Media

NC0505151791 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, May 5 (AFP)—Iraq on Sunday lifted the censorship imposed on the international media at the outbreak of the Gulf war in January, an Information Ministry official said.

The official said journalists would no longer have to submit their reports or films to censors before filing or transmitting. Censorship has remained in force since the Gulf war, although it was recently eased.

Iraq has said it would introduce democratic reforms, including a free presidential election and a free press.

Ba'th Party Officials Asked To Return Weapons

NC0405160091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Now that many of those who were deceived by the regime have begun to return to the national fold, the regime has initiated several measures to counter this phenomenon. These measures include banning Ba'th Party members from carrying weapons. All party members have been instructed to return all the weapons they had been issued. The decision applies to everyone, including the highest echelons of the Ba'th Party.

The decision is part of the policy that started with the regime's decision to disband the Popular Army.

Reservists Born 1947-1952 Discharged From Service

JN0405121091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—His Excellency President Field Marshal Saddam Husayn has ordered that those born in the years 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1952 who are still reservists shall be discharged from service regardless of the reasons for their continued service.

It should be noted that the official procedures regarding the discharge of those born between 1953 and 1960 who were discharged from military service have been completed.

Health Minister Leaves for WHO Conference

JN0405143391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 4 May 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id today left Baghdad for Geneva to attend the annual conference of the 44th session of the World Health Organization, scheduled to begin tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Planning Minister on Postwar Development Goals

JN0405193191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The Ministry of Planning has announced that it has finalized an alternative plan and reconsidered the investment plan for this year because of the circumstances Iraq is experiencing in the aftermath of the rancorous imperialist-Zionist aggression.

In a statement to INA, Planning Minister Dr. Samal Majid Faraj said that the amended investment plan, which will be presented to the Council of Ministers for endorsement, gives priority to the repair of electrical energy projects, the refining of petroleum and petroleum products, the pumping of crude oil, projects related to communications, basic industrial projects associated with food supplies, and raw materials necessary for operation of some major projects.

The minister indicated that the Planning Ministry's tasks in the field of statistics are concerned with efforts to reconstruct and organize destroyed records and data, continue production of statistical work, issue statistical

reports regarding economic and social activities, and develop and complete data banks regarding the population's occupations, economic activities, demographics, and legal affairs. An additional task concerns launching statistical training courses for employees working at the ministries concerned, the minister said.

The minister added: In the fields of administrative development and computers, advice will be offered on administrative development, administrative systems, the preparation of guidelines, organizational structures, personnel systems, incentives, cost accounting systems, and the updating of the organizational and administrative structures of the state's agencies.

The planning minister indicated that the ministry will attach special importance to the completion of product specifications and will conduct gold testing at the laboratories of the Central Agency for Standardization and Quality Control as requested.

The minister affirmed that work in the development sphere will focus, in accordance with the plan, on the priorities that suit the current phase, after taking into account the available financial capabilities. Emphasis will be placed on using intrinsic capabilities in operating the economy and removing all effects of the aggressive war, the minister added.

The minister noted that the Iraqi economy needs to be developed, and all impediments that preclude the realization of fast progress must be removed. The minister added: Hence, the task of the state at present lies in caring for the crucial projects. With regard to other projects, they can be left to the private sector, whose services have remained unutilized. This sector will be taken care of and managed, so that it can play its national role in the reconstruction endeavor.

Concluding his statement, the planning minister said that all agencies and bodies of his ministry will continue over the next few months to prepare studies on everything related to the economy with the aim of preparing the investment plan for 1992.

Reportage on Restoration of Telecommunications

Defense Minister on Phone Service

JN0505160291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1528 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defense minister and supervisor of the oil and industry and military industrialization sectors, met today with the technical cadres at the Transport and Communications Ministry and the Industry and Military Industrialization Ministry to discuss telephone services provided to citizens in implementation of President Saddam Husayn's order to resume the telephone exchanges in Baghdad and the other governorates in May.

During the meeting, they decided to rebuild the communications tower in al-Ma'mun area and make it higher than it was before the aggression.

The minister asserted that the reconstruction of that vital installation will facilitate telephone contacts in the country and is considered a challenge to the sinful aggression against great Iraq. He also pointed out that the best way to respond to the aggression is to work diligently and give concrete evidence to our people that we have honest, qualified persons who do not depend on foreign assistance.

He stressed the need to work and make every effort, especially since the national and pan-Arab responsibility under the current circumstances requires the pooling of all efforts to remove the effects of the evil forces' aggression on Iraq.

He added that the reconstruction process should be escalated pursuant to the instructions and recommendations of President Saddam Husayn, who cares about all achievements made on behalf of the great Iraqi people.

President Saddam Husayn had earlier tasked Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan with supervising a comprehensive campaign to repair and improve telephone services throughout Iraq. The defense minister pledged to extend all efforts and capabilities to restore telephone services to the citizens, companies, state departments, and all subscribers to the level that existed before the 30-state aggression, and to make them exceed this level as soon as possible.

TV Transmissions Said To Resume

JN0505094691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—The Engineering Affairs Department at the Ministry of Culture and Information has announced that television transmissions in the Governorates of al-Muthanna and al-Najaf will resume next week, while work is under way to reinstitute television transmissions in al-Qadisiyah Governorate. It is hoped television transmissions will be restored there within the next two weeks.

The technical and engineering personnel earlier had restored the television stations of Mosul, Irbil, al-Ta'mim, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Baghdad, Wasit, al-Qa'im, al-Hillah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, and al-Basrah. They also restored four major radio stations, allowing Iraq to be well-covered with radio transmissions.

In a related development, the technical and engineering personnel at the ministry have drawn up a working plan for reinstituting transmission of the Baghdad television's second channel—as a first step after the required technical equipment has been constructed—and for bringing operations at that station back to where they were before the imperialist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq .

Further on TV Transmissions

JN0605102591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—The engineering and technical departments at the Ministry of Culture and Information are continuing their preparations to resume transmission of the first and second channels of Iraqi television within the coming days.

In today's edition, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has issued instructions to establish a second program on Iraqi radio and asked that the implementation of the two [as received] new programs be carried out independently in terms of content from the radio and television programs that are currently being transmitted.

Before the U.S. aggression against Iraq, Iraqi television used to transmit on two channels. The first channel carried general programming, while the second was devoted to news and cultural programs in foreign languages.

Electricity Restored to Irbil, Dhi Qar Provinces

JN0505165291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1607 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Irbil, 5 May (INA)—Electricity has been restored to Irbil Governorate, capital of the Kurdistan autonomous region, its districts, and subdistricts.

Irbil Governor Mundhir Muzaffar al-Naqshabandi told the INA correspondent in the governorate that technical teams have completed the repair of the 132-kilovolt power lines and the internal networks supplying districts and subdistricts.

He said that drinking water was also restored to the citizens, major water networks were functioning again, and telephone services were restored after telephone exchanges and lines which were damaged as a result of the U.S. aggression and mob actions were repaired.

In another development, the INA correspondent in Dhi Qar Governorate said that electricity was restored to several residential areas in the governorate yesterday, and that the telephone exchange in the Suq al-Shuyukh district was repaired to supply the citizens with telephone service.

Defense Minister: Gasoline Production To Increase

JN0505141291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1323 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defense minister and supervisor of the oil and industry and military industrialization sectors, has announced that the coming days will witness a considerable increase in gasoline production and a noticeable improvement in quality.

In his statement to INA, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan asserted that the gasoline will meet more than Iraq's local needs and will be ready for export.

He pointed out that gasoline stations operating in Iraq will continue to operate to meet citizens' needs for gasoline.

He said that the relevant authorities are actively continuing to supply the citizens with energy sources, including electric power and all sorts of fuel, in implementation of President Saddam Husayn's order.

Taha Mahmud Musa, under secretary of the Oil Ministry, stated earlier today that Iraq's production of gasoline would reach 13 million liters per day within a week.

It has been learned that the unrestricted production of gasoline was begun on 28 April, President Saddam Husayn's birthday.

Oil Ministry Official on Increase

JN0505121491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Taha Hammud Musa, under secretary of the Oil Ministry, has asserted that Iraq's capacity for producing gasoline would reach 13 million liters per day within a week.

In a statement to INA, Taha Hammud Musa said there is more gasoline available than Iraq needs, and that production will be doubled in the next 10 days.

As for engine oil, he said the Bayji refinery will start producing it in large quantities, representing 50 percent of the refinery's capacity. Meanwhile the al-Dawrah refinery also will produce oil at 50-percent capacity.

Taha Hammud Musa indicated the Bayji refinery complex will restore its previous capacity within the next two weeks in terms of production and improved quality. He pointed out that the al-Dawrah refinery will attain its previous capacity during the next few days.

The Oil Ministry under secretary announced that liquid gas will be available to the public in less than two weeks, adding that its production is sufficient to meet Iraq's needs.

The restrictions on the sale of gasoline were lifted 28 April to mark the birthday of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

Ministry Allows Unrestricted Kerosene Distribution

JN0405152591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The Oil Ministry has decided to allow, as of tomorrow, Sunday [5 May], the unrestricted distribution of white oil "kerosene" for citizens all over the country without the ration cards which the ministry had supplied to citizens.

Oil Ministry Under Secretary Taha Hammud Musa told INA that the oil refineries' production capacity is currently sufficient to meet the country's needs of this product.

It is worth mentioning that the Oil Ministry last week authorized the unrestricted distribution of gasoline and gas oil after the damage inflicted on the Iraqi refineries by the 30-state aggression was repaired.

Oil By-Products Price Reduction Effective 8 May

JN0505191691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1846 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the prices of oil by-products and fuel be reduced for citizens as of next Wednesday.

A statement issued in this regard said that the price of 1 liter of super-grade gasoline will drop from 90 to 70 fils, the price of 1 liter of improved gasoline will drop from 60 to 40 fils, and the price of 1 liter of gas oil will drop from 80 to 60 fils.

It was also announced that citizens will be supplied with fuel oil, black oil, and asphalt free of charge until further notice.

Reportage on State of Natural Gas Production

Restrictions on Cylinders Lifted

JN0505163691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—It has been announced here that the rationing of liquid gas cylinders to citizens in Baghdad and the governorates will stop as of tomorrow, Monday.

Restrictions on the supply of gasoline to citizens were lifted on 28 April on the occasion of Iraq's celebration of President Saddam Husayn's birthday. Restrictions on the distribution of white oil were lifted yesterday.

Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who is supervising the sectors of oil and industry and military industrialization, stressed that there will be a surplus of gasoline and that it will be ready for export.

Plant Prepared To Bottle Gas

JN0505092291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Diyala, 5 May (INA)—The technical cadres of the Ba'qubah Gas Plant have completed maintenance work on the two gas-bottling lines in the plant, which has a daily capacity of 20,000 gas bottles.

The plant manager told an INA correspondent in Diyala that the two lines have become ready for operation 12 hours a day. He added that as a first shipment the plant had received 300 tonnes of liquid gas transported by 16 fuel trucks from the northern gas project. Work is under way to bottle the gas for distribution once the restrictions on the distribution of liquid gas are lifted, he said.

Minister Announces Wheat, Rice Import Contracts

JN0505181691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has announced that Iraq and Australia have signed an agreement allowing Iraq to import 1 million tonnes of wheat this year.

In a statement to INA upon his return from Amman today, the minister said contracts to import 200,000 tonnes of rice were also signed with Thai companies.

The signing of the two agreements, he said, followed negotiations in Amman over the past three days with the chairman of the Australian grains council and a delegation representing Thai companies.

He added that the cost of these amounts of wheat and rice will be paid from the frozen funds which Iraq has asked the Security Council to release to allow it to import foodstuffs and medicine.

Australia Said To Sell 1 Million Tonnes of Wheat

JN0505092791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 May 91 p 1

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources said that the Australian Wheat Council has agreed to sell Iraq 1 million tonnes of wheat after having obtained official approval from the Security Council.

The sources added that the first shipment of wheat is expected to arrive at al-'Aqabah port during the next month.

Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met with a representative of the Australian Wheat Council in Amman during the last two days.

Iranian Leaders Said 'Worse' Than Shah's 'Team'

JN0405074791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0616 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the Iranian leaders' explicit and exposed collusion with the U.S., Atlantic, and Zionist aggressors, and their turning Iranian territory into a base for the gangs of demagoguery and sabotage have laid bare these leaders' ugly faces and hidden rancor against the Iraqi revolution and its nationalist leadership. The paper describes the clique clinging to power in Iran as a misled clique that is worse than the team of the shah of Iran.

In an article today referring to the claims and falsifications of agents and hirelings, such as Khamene'i, the paper asserts that the man hides under the cloak of a

"guide" all the practices and tricks of experienced agents and that under his turban lie black thoughts, wicked intentions, and evil plans that serve no one but his masters in Washington, particularly the CIA.

The paper says that Khamene'i's attacks on the revolution in Iraq and its leader symbol, Saddam Husayn, will demean no one but Khamene'i himself and all the bad people surrounding him, who are a bunch of pseudo men of religion and revolutionaries and charlatans grasping power in Iran today.

Referring to the turbaned successors of the shah, the paper says they are America's men who raise fake anti-Washington slogans while in their sick depths, contaminated souls, and rotten minds they are absolutely loyal to Washington and engaged in a fateful alliance with it.

The paper asserts that Iraq retains a dear place in the bosoms of all good people. Iraq's principles will remain entrenched and its values genuine. These principles and values will not be undermined by the allegations and falsifications of agents and hirelings such as Khamene'i.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that free, revolutionary Iraq will remain free and revolutionary under its distinguished leader, Saddam Husayn, and through its great people, blessed by the masses of the Arab nation and believers everywhere. The status of Iraq will remain as it has always been. As for Khamene'i and the likes of him, they will be hanged in the gallows of history and will reap nothing but an eternal curse.

Newspaper: Iran 'Failed To Learn' From War

JN0405095191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the Iranian regime failed to learn from its bitter experience in attacking Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs with the aim of exporting its revolution and establishing an agent regime under despicable sectarian slogans.

In an editorial today, AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, adds that the eight-year war brought many lessons that the Iranian regime should have benefited from when the war ended with an Iraqi victory and the failure of the Iranian scheme to occupy and dominate Iraq.

The paper explains that after the war, President Saddam Husayn sent letters to the Iranian rulers in which he expressed Iraq's sincere intentions of establishing positive relations with Iran on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs, and a desire for peace and security in the region.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The Iranian leaders harbor in their evil souls new aggressive intentions against Iraq. To exploit the circumstances of the armed aggression against Iraq, they prepared an evil scheme coinciding with the beginning of the American aggression in order to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and send Iranian infiltrators and agents across the border to foment sectarian sedition in some governorates and to destroy the Iraqi citizens' service, economic, and living facilities.

The paper adds that the Iranians executed a criminal plot by infiltrating their agents across the border in the northern area to foment a separatist uprising coinciding with the sectarian sedition designed to fragment Iraq and destroy its economic and service structures.

The paper stresses: The Iranian regime has once again found itself in a losing position. All its wagers on fomenting a sedition and reaping its destructive results got nowhere with the failure of the most dangerous chapter in the imperialist-Zionist plotting against Iraq.

The paper notes that the Iranian rulers found no alternative but to fully reveal their aggressive intentions against Iraq and to launch an unjust media campaign against it through which they sought to reverse facts and propagate lies.

'U.S. Camps of Humiliation' in Dahuk Criticized

JN0505071491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ affirms that the establishment of camps in some areas in the Dahuk Governorate is a mean attempt to prevent the refugees from returning to their homes.

In an article published today, the paper adds that our Kurdish people and their lofty masses strongly reject the U.S. camps of humiliation and want to return to their safe cities now that normalcy has returned to them. The paper stresses that the establishment of these camps serves first and foremost the imperialist schemes hostile to the Iraqi homeland and inflicts considerable harm on the sons of our Kurdish people and their future generations.

The paper goes on to say: Iraq rejects and condemns the schemes aimed at imposing custodianship and protection, because these positions, which emerged out of the blue, are not meant to serve the Kurds. The paper wonders about these parties' positions on the miserable state of the Kurds living in Iran and Turkey.

Concluding its article, the paper says: the Kurds are the sons of Iraq and the revolution. As for the foreigners, they have to understand this fact. Moreover, Iraq does not need the U.S. camps of humiliation.

U.S. Overflights 'Arouse Feelings of Hatred'

JN0505082391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0658 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the continued overflights of U.S.

aircraft over Iraqi territory arouse feelings of hatred in the hearts of the Iraqi people.

In a column published today, the paper affirms that this practice, which is being observed by the United States and its satellite countries, is a manifestation of the unremitting war the United States is waging against Iraq. The paper adds: This practice also reflects the new war [as received] order it upholds and seeks to realize through the use of its troops, as well as the troops of the countries which walk in its footsteps.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, views these practices as an attempt to take revenge on the Iraqi people and to push them to relinquish their right to life, because these practices aim to fragment their territorial integrity. Pseudo-legal deception is used as a cover for interference in our internal affairs, the mantle of humanitarian concern is donned to violate international laws, relief aid is used as an excuse to realize ambitions, and the assistance provided to minorities is exploited to partition the Iraqi homeland, the paper adds.

Newspaper Criticizes U.S. 'Machiavellian' Policy

JN0505103191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—Baghdad AL-THAWRAH criticizes the U.S. Administration's world policy, saying it is based on Machiavellian principles.

In an article published today, the paper says: Since the fall of the Red empire, the United States has been using its claws to dominate the world and its resources to confront Japanese and German competition. Political observers say this U.S. scheme took root during the Malta summit between Bush and Gorbachev. The Soviets opened their squares in Russian cities to pizza and photos of Michael Jackson. This caused the American imagination to talk of a new world order.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that this U.S. world order is based on spreading the jeans and cola culture, incapacitating minds, and turning people into consumers.

The paper adds that the Gulf war, or Gulf conspiracy, has been a central link in the pragmatic philosophy behind the attempt to dominate oil wells to offset any possible horrific economic recession.

The paper recalls that Iraq, the country which has pursued a pan-Arab policy, discovered this conspiracy. The paper regrets that some of those to whom the conspiracy was disclosed have either chosen to remain silent or failed to prepare themselves to face this conspiracy.

'Wagers' on Domestic Front 'Penetration' Ridiculed

JN0505104991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH ridicules the enemies' wagers on the possible penetration of our domestic front through the use of false and deceptive slogans and campaigns or through the use of psychological and moral pressures, which are tantamount to brazen interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

In an article entitled "The Enemies' Delusions," the paper says: The Iraqis know who launched the savage aggression against their country and insisted on continuing the war for eight years. They are also aware of what the aggressors sought to achieve through their unjust war. Likewise, the Iraqis will forget neither those who cut off the Euphrates waters and thus inflicted harm on millions of peasants nor those who prevented Iraqi oil from passing through Syrian territory.

The paper affirms that our people have been the victims of and witnesses to the crimes committed by the U.S. and NATO invaders. They have been witnesses to the invaders' unrivaled savagery and bestiality, which were manifested in their destruction of our vital installations and also in sabotaging the infrastructure of the basic services associated with the citizens' daily life, the paper adds.

The paper indicates that the Iraqis, agonizingly and angrily, draw contrasts between the bad actions and bestial crimes the enemies and conspirators committed and the false and deceptive slogans which they allegedly uphold and pretend to cherish. The Iraqis are aware of the enemies' interference in Iraq's internal affairs and also of the arbitrary and unjust resolutions and measures they enforced against the Iraqi people, using the flimsy pretext of economic sanctions, the paper adds.

Concluding its article, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that our great people will stand as a towering mountain, unified and inspired by all meanings of honorable patriotism, by the depth of their militant history, and also by their awareness of the objectives and intentions of the forces of evil and conspiracy. The paper adds: As for the maneuvers and deceptive tactics used by the enemies, they will neither undermine nor weaken their fervent patriotism. Likewise, these maneuvers and deceptive tactics will neither debilitate their jihad spirit nor their ability to cope with ordeals and surmount difficulties.

Paper Calls on Kurds To Abort U.S. 'Dirty Plot'

JN0605075191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0612 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—AL-'IRAQ newspaper has called for aborting the hideous and dirty plot perpetrated by the United States through establishing camps for the Kurds and the Iraqis. The paper adds in an article

published in today's issue that the camps of humiliation and disgrace, which are being established by the United States without any consideration for the role of the United Nations and the agreement signed with it regarding the peaceful return of the Kurds to their cities and villages, hide the (?old) objectives and abominable colonialist goals (?that aim at turning) the Kurds into groups of refugees.

AL-'IRAQ adds that aborting this dirty and hideous plot is the responsibility of the sons of our Kurdish people in the first place. The sons of our Kurdish people have a historical responsibility to reveal the falsehood of the American allegations and the false and deluding concern that the Kurds are threatened with harm and pursuit.

The Iraqi paper stresses that the Kurds today, particularly those who are exposed to pressure by the U.S. forces and some suspect groups, should prevent the success of the suspect scheme and confront—with the bravery of strong men—all attempts aimed at encroaching on their homeland and their sincere affiliation with it.

The paper notes that the genuine Iraqi Kurds, who love the land and mountains, will only live inside their cities and villages, on the slopes of their mountains, and near the clear water springs, clinging to their land, mountains, and plains.

Opposition Alleges U.S. Materiel Being Acquired

NC0405162091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources say that the ruling regime in Baghdad is trying to rebuild its war machine with U.S. assistance. According to these sources, spare parts and weapons sent by America are entering Iraq from Jordan. The sources do not elaborate any further. However, the UK newspaper THE FINANCIAL TIMES had carried similar reports to the effect that large amounts of U.S. military spare parts arrived in Baghdad.

Opposition Reports Attacks on Republican Guards

LD0305194991 Tehran in English to Europe 1830 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] An opposition leader in Iraq says at least 180 members of Republican Guards including the [word indistinct] commander have been killed in the course of nine attacks against some of their units in recent days.

The Iraqi opposition forces have also released a statement saying that the popular forces have attacked the 20th brigade of the 6th Division in al-Basrah, killing and wounding 400 of them. The opposition forces also say that they have attacked the Republican Guards in al-Amarah, killing 47 of them and capturing 132—as well as destroying 30 of their vehicles.

REUTER Cited on Attack on Commander's Home

NC0405151291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] REUTER has reported that a major attack was waged against the home of the commander of the Saddamist Republican Guards. According to REUTER, the home of Ayat Khalifah al-Rawi came under a surprise attack that involved a heavy exchange of fire with the sentries guarding the home. The attackers managed to enter the home and killed one of the sons of the Republican Guards' commander. Al-Rawi, however, was not at home at the time of the attack.

Arms Depot Blast Reported; Regime Buys Weapons

NC0405153291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] According to our correspondent in al-Dayr, an explosion took place in the arms depot of the 6th Corps, partially destroying it. The explosion could be heard miles away.

In addition, in an attempt to replace the arms seized by our rebelling masses, the regime has bought back some of these weapons, using collaborators for the purchases. The regime is also using collaborators to gather intelligence about the leading activists in the revolution. Our revolutionaries have warned the masses about the dangers of these practices by the regime.

Rebel Radio Reports Attack on Artillery Regiment

NC0605060191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0446 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] In the first retaliation of its kind following close monitoring and observation, our heroic revolutionaries have staged a lightning attack on one of the regime's military units that took part in the heinous crime of shelling the two tombs of [word indistinct] of the Prophet, God's prayers and mercy be on him and his family, and of Abu-'Abdallah and his brother Abu-al-Fadil al- 'Abbas, peace be on them.

The report we received said that the 874th Artillery Regiment, which the regime redeployed in the Khanaqin area in an attempt to protect it from the revenge of the revolutionaries, came under sudden attack by our revolutionaries. The report added that the attack targeted the regiment's headquarters. In the first few minutes of the battle the revolutionaries dealt painful blows to its personnel. Three of the regiment's commanders and a number of other soldiers of various ranks were killed. Six were taken prisoner. In addition to the material damage, a number of guns were damaged and a number of (?vehicles) and tents were burned. Our revolutionaries also seized a number of 130-mm guns and a large amount of mortars, rifles, and telecommunications equipment.

Soviet Ties To Be Resumed on Bessmertnykh Visit

TA0605161291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] An announcement regarding the renewal of diplomatic ties between the Soviet Union and Israel will be made on the day of Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh's visit to Israel, or the day after. This observation was made by Gorbachev's foreign affairs adviser, Andrey Grachev [name and title as heard] to our correspondent Gid'on Kouts. He noted that Moscow does not make the resumption of ties contingent on Israeli consent to the USSR-proposed international conference.

Minister Bessmertnykh will arrive in Israel on Friday [10 May]. He will convene with his counterpart, David Levi, and with Prime Minister Shamir.

Source: Prisoner Swap Must Include Israelis

TA0505094391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 May 91 p 2

[Report by military correspondent On Levi and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Responding to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's remarks about a prisoner exchange, a senior defense source stated last night that Israel welcomes any Iranian proposal to release prisoners. At the same time, the source pointed out, any such deal would have to include Israel's POW's and MIA's.

According to the source, Israel will not permit the release of even one Shiite detainee held in al-Khiyam prison in south Lebanon or in other prison facilities in Israel if its POW's and MIA's are not included in the prisoner swap agreement. The source went on to say that Israel knows that Air Force navigator Ron Arad is being held by Iran or by pro-Iranian organizations. [passage omitted]

[A similar report by London-based correspondent Dafna Vardi and military correspondent Avi Bnayahu on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 5 May quotes the senior source as pointing out that "Shaykh 'Ubayd, who was abducted from Lebanon and brought to Israel over a year ago, has not and will not be shown in the media and to international organizations as long as the Iranians or the Shiite groups in south Lebanon do not do the same with the Israeli POW's."]

Adviser on Negotiations

TA0505162091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Israel has expressed readiness to contribute to the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon, and it even made relevant gestures in the past, but Israel's contribution is contingent on the inclusion of its own POW's and MIA's among those released. These remarks were made by the defense minister's media adviser in reaction to media reports that Iranian leaders are demanding that Israel release prisoners of Iranian nationality.

The defense adviser further said that Israel urges all the bodies holding hostages and POW's to enable the Red Cross to visit them and to begin negotiations on their release. In such a process, Israel would be ready to negotiate the release of Lebanese prisoners.

Shamir Admits Differences With U.S.

LD0405080191 Hamburg DPA in German 0358 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir assumes that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will continue his Middle East peace mission despite current differences between Washington and Jerusalem. In an interview with the Hamburg-based news magazine "DER SPIEGEL" prereleased today, Shamir concedes that there are "differences of opinion" with the Americans over the new settlements in the Arab territories occupied by Israel; Washington views Israel's attitude as "an obstacle to peace."

In the interview, Shamir defends his government's position of not stopping new settlements, as "this little piece of land" belongs to Israel. However, he does not rule out there having to be further negotiations on the final status of these territories. This problem is "the essence of the conflict between Israel and the Arab world".

According to Shamir, German-Israeli relations are again "quite satisfactory" after having been strained by the export of German military technology to Iraq. There have been clarifying talks with German politicians. Shamir now hopes that after the experiences of the Gulf war, the government in Bonn will do everything "to prevent this happening again".

The interview was made available to DPA in an edited form.

Netanyahu: Pressure 'Will Not Influence Us'

TA0305181491 Jerusalem Israel Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 91

[Address by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to B'nai B'rith members in Tel Aviv on 3 May—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] What will happen if unilateral pressure is applied on Israel? Will it advance the process? First, it is unjust, that is clear. If Israel has made a move and the Arabs have not, then the time has come for the Arabs to make a move. Second, pressure will not influence us. Pressure will not influence us in any way. [applause] Third, there is no need to pressure us, because we are interested in advancing peace. We initiated, we are doing things. If the Arabs see that pressure or criticism is leveled at Israel unjustifiably—and they know it is—what motivation, what incentive, will any Arab have to change his positions and to advance? In other words, the unilateral concentration on Israel does not promote the peace, but pushes its back. Therefore, if any pressure is needed

today, it is not in the direction of Israel but on the Arabs. We would certainly like to see clear demands made by the international community on Saudi Arabia, Syria, and also Jordan—which only weeks ago adopted Saddam Husayn's line, we should remember that—to demand from them the end of the state of war and the making of concessions in order to begin negotiations.

We hope the United States leads that demand. If the United States will be persistent in its demand then it will be able to show achievements. We do not propose that the United States cease its efforts, but that it direct them where they should be directed, the Arab capitals.

New Settlement in Hebron To Be Populated Soon

TA0505132591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Ran Kohen and Yosi Sarid demand that the prime minister and the defense minister prevent the establishment of a new settlement planned on Manoah Mount near Hebron. They say they have authoritative information indicating that preparations—including the evacuation of an army base located in the area—are being made toward the inauguration of a settlement on that site.

A check by our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld has revealed that groundwork at the site began several months ago, and the settlement is apparently planned to be inaugurated in the coming days.

MK's Kohen and Sarid from the Citizens Rights Movement note that the new settlement is located at a considerable distance from Qiryat Arba'. Despite this, the planners contend that this is but a new neighborhood of Hebron's Qiryat Arba'.

Sharon on U.S. Trip, Settlements Issue

TA0505132891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 May 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in New York by Roni Daniyel on 5 May—recorded]

[Text] [Daniyel] Hello, Minister Sharon. When you land here in Israel in another two or three hours a very warm welcome is awaiting you at Ben-Gurion Airport. The Knesset speaker, Knesset members, mayors, and ordinary people will be there. The whole affair might therefore have been worthwhile: the very trip, and the much-spoken about incident with the U.S. Administration. What do you have to say about that?

[Sharon] When I left I did not know I was going to get a warm welcome. It is always nice to come home and to receive a warm welcome. I am very happy about that and I thank all those who are coming. What happened is not a personal offense but an affront to the Israeli Government and the State of Israel due to the dangers awaiting Israel if it is not made absolutely clear that Israel will not accept such offenses. It is very important to make it clear for future negotiations.

[Daniyel] The initial reaction to the incident by the prime minister's bureau was very restrained. Can you explain that?

[Sharon] I talked with the prime minister and reported on the incident. I understood from the prime minister's remarks that he is angry over what happened and that he fully understands that the lack of a response over such an offense, which was not personal at all, could in the future damage Israel's status. That was my feeling and that is how I understood the announcement by the Cabinet secretariat, which is in fact the prime minister's reaction.

[Daniyel] From your point of view, is the affair over?

[Sharon] I am no longer dealing with the issue. I believe that it should not be dealt with any more. We should deal with the main issues. The reactions clarified to the U.S. Administration that such things should not be repeated, and we must now concentrate on the main issues. It is also worthwhile stressing that settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is a long-range Israeli plan—around since 1968—to build Jewish settlements in strategic points. All the governments—both Likud and Alignment—since late 1967 and early 1968, each according to its concepts, acted to implement that plan.

[Daniyel] Ari'el Sharon, it is true that it is a long-range policy, but the question now is one of timing. Would it not be preferable while Baker is exerting efforts in our region to arrange some sort of framework for meetings to fold up the settlement flag—there were a lot of times in the past when that was done. For example, when negotiations with Egypt were being conducted we avoided setting up settlements. Why should that not be the case now? Perhaps those settlements themselves are an obstacle, as the EC countries said last night?

[Sharon] First, the facts. During the negotiations with Egypt we did not stop establishing Jewish settlements. I believe that between 1978 and 1982 settlement activity in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip was at its peak. That policy was implemented in the past, is being implemented now, and will be implemented in the future because it is considered a policy of principle linked to Israel's security. In reference to the EC policy, they never supported our policy on those issues and we should not expect them to. In general, when we speak about issues linked to our very existence we cannot conduct a policy based on this or that event.

[Daniyel] Mr. Minister, in the Cabinet you are also in charge of immigrant absorption—that is one cap. With the other cap, as construction and housing minister, you are pushing for more and more settlements and the expansion of existing settlements. Is there not a contradiction between the two things, since Israel needs the United States in order to succeed in absorbing the immigrants?

[Sharon] I am in charge of construction and I am pleased that due to great efforts, perhaps my greatest effort ever in the past 40 years, we have reached the stage that I can now say that we have a solution to the housing issue. There will be problems in 1991, but we are currently working at such a building rate that I am not worried about the lack of homes for a single immigrant or Israeli family, despite all the difficulties.

[Daniyel] Will there be U.S. aid for that?

[Sharon] It is certainly very important to receive aid. It will certainly be difficult to carry out that task without aid. In order to receive aid we require several things. First, we in Israel must make a much greater effort....

[Daniyel, interrupting] My question is directed at the settlement issue. The administration might come and say: Friends, stop the settlements, otherwise you will not receive any aid for immigrant absorption. Was such a condition raised in any of your meetings there?

[Sharon] I believe such a thing will be rejected by the prime minister, who voices the government position. We must recall that Israel is a democratic state in which various views are expressed, but in the final analysis the determining view is that of the prime minister, and it is he who will make it known to the Americans. I am sure he will reject such a demand out of hand. I believe it will be a grave mistake to tie aid—a humanitarian moral issue of the highest order—to any demand on Israel to give up things which are vital to its security, its existence, and the lives of its citizens.

[Daniyel] Sir, how would you now define U.S.-Israeli relations? We are again hearing the expression reevaluation, which means pressure on Israel in order to get it to agree to some framework for opening talks. Did you feel in your talks the start of such U.S. pressure?

[Sharon] Among Jews who have been in key positions and those who are now in key positions, as well as among friends of Israel, there is deep concern about possible steps which might be taken. On the other hand, we should recall that we are referring to a great democracy, a real democracy, and here too public opinion is influential. There is talk here about the things you referred to, such as reevaluation. We know what is behind that concept; it happened in the past: weapons deliveries to Israel were stopped at one stage even though they were most vital to us. Israel, however, must show steadfastness, it must stand up to those things. I hope that we will speak in a clear voice. I believe that Israel must transfer the discussions from procedural issues to substance and make it absolutely clear what we can do, and what we cannot and will not do. The quicker we make that clear the easier it will be. We should come to the United States with a single unilateral demand. Two states were saved by the United States and owe it a lot: Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. By the way, they also owe Israel. Taking into consideration their possible stand in the future, Israel agreed to a U.S. request and did not provide the defense it could have provided its citizens in the face of the Scud missiles. However, the debt of these countries to the United States is much higher. The United States can bring them to the negotiating table immediately in order to reach a peace accord with Israel. We do not have common borders with them, we do not have disputes over any territories, and the entry of such countries into a peace process with Israel can bring about a basic change in the atmosphere in the Middle East, as well as help with the substantial issues to achieve peace, such as a solution of the refugee and water problems.

[Daniyel] If James Baker then comes and says: I want to achieve all those things, but in order to enable it to happen, stop the settlements for a certain period; then you will say no to him. Is that correct?

[Sharon] I believe that I have made that point clear. There is no tie between peace and the strengthening of the existing Jewish settlements, or if the government decides, additional settlements. There is no tie between the two. On the contrary, and this must be said, we must not accept any demand containing any danger to Israel's security based on the government's concept.

Cabinet Members View U.S. Treatment of Sharon

TA0505150791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 May 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] In the midst of the Cabinet meeting the ministers suddenly began to cough, and some even had a tear or two fall down their cheek. The reason was not the moving things the ministers heard, but reactions to the tear gas the police were using against the Druze demonstrators outside the Prime Minister's Office and which infiltrated the conference room.

During the Cabinet debate itself, which dealt mainly with economic issues, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet raised the issue of the treatment of Minister Sharon in Washington. It was an affront to the government and the entire nation, Ze'evi said, adding: How dare they do that to an Israeli minister while courting Husayn and 'Arafat? Outside the Prime Minister's Office, other ministers, including Moshe Qatzav, voiced a similar position:

[Begin Qatzav recording] He [Sharon] must not be treated improperly. I view the U.S. Administration's behavior on that issue as improper. [end recording]

The U.S. treatment of Minister Sharon prompted even Minister Ehud Olmert make a surprising declaration on his attitude to Sharon.

[Begin Olmert recording] The moment that issue was raised in that context I support Ari'el Sharon. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported to the ministers on the protest Israel presented to the United States

via Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein on the inappropriate behavior toward Minister Sharon.

Foreign Minister Levi also reported on the visits of the Danish and Greek foreign ministers to Israel. Levi also briefed the ministers on Israeli-PRC relations. He reported an improvement in relations and said the Israeli academic delegation in Beijing is being expanded and might be granted diplomatic immunity in the PRC.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya raised the issue of the Gaza Strip. Ne'eman asked the defense minister whether it was true that there is a plan to appoint Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, who is identified with the PLO, as Gaza mayor. Minister Arens did not respond directly and only said he plans to appoint a committee to run Gaza city. [passage omitted]

Sharon Returns; Gush Emunim Denies New Settlement

TA0505152091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Minister Sharon returned from his U.S. visit this afternoon. He was received by a large group of Knesset members [MK's], mayors, and Likud branch heads.

Aides of the minister told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that in the coming days, 20 mobile homes will indeed be mounted on Mount Manoah near Hebron. A further 90 mobile homes will be placed in Qiryat Arba'. They claimed that this is merely an expansion of Qiryat Arba'.

Gush Emunim has rejected the allegations of MK's Ran Kohen and Yosi Sarid regarding the establishment of a new settlement on Mount Manoah near Hebron. A Gush Emunim spokesman told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that a settlement on Mount Manoah was planned as far back as eight years ago. Qiryat Arba', he said, is located on two hills several kilometers apart. Therefore, Mount Manoah is part of Qiryat Arba', he said.

Levi Attacks Right-Wing 'Whining' in Government

TA0505172791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 May 91

[Report by Shlomo Raz from Bet Jabotinsky Likud Headquarters in Tel Aviv]

[Text] Knesset Member Uzi Landau, the head of the Likud Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said at the outset of his remarks that many members did not attend today's meeting because they went to meet Minister Sharon at the airport. Relations between Levi and Sharon are well known. That might be one of the reasons the foreign minister, in reference to the phrase Jordan is Palestine, remarked that it was harmful.

[Begin Levi recording] It is distressing, it is damaging, why do we need it? If you believe it, then time will tell if it's correct. By saying things you do not determine any political position which has any chance of being accepted, but will only cause damage. [end recording]

We have an interest in Jordan's continuing stability and we are doing something about that, the foreign minister said, but he did not elaborate. Israel will not join any process aimed at a Palestinian state, he said.

Minister Levi leveled fairly sharp criticism at the right-wing parties, which whine all the time. In general, he regrets the type of character which has taken over Israeli politics, especially in the right-wing camp; he called it the whining type. In his attack on the right-wing partners in this government he also criticized his colleagues in the Likud leadership.

[Begin Levi recording] Everything I said was coordinated, worked out, and agreed upon with my colleagues in the Likud leadership, with the prime minister and the defense minister—that is the way we work—before discussions began, updates were provided during the discussions, and after the discussions ended. That is how we work out our positions. So when somebody comes running and threatens, we should not capitulate, because there is no limit to that; we would see ourselves as not being in control and would be afraid of ourselves, and we would lose power. All three things together are just too much. [end recording]

Minister Levi also criticized the letter the Golan Heights residents received about the Likud commitment not to negotiate over the area. It will be recalled that the letter was written by the Likud leadership, and if I recall well, from the prime minister. Foreign Minister Levi said that we must not get into a situation in which we are isolated. He praised relations with the United States, and spoke in favor of strengthening the ties and of coordinating positions between the two states. It is of supreme importance to strengthen ties with the United States, Levi said.

We should recall that the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is perhaps the most hawkish forum in the Likud. The foreign minister is now forced to answer a barrage of questions, most of which can be expected to be pointed since Levi's present policy is not necessarily popular in this forum.

Moda'i on U.S. Ambassador's Remarks on Aid

TA0505173091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says he is not happy with the statement by American Ambassador William Brown, apparently threatening to cut U.S. aid for immigrant absorption in Israel. Moda'i was speaking after today's Cabinet meeting, which approved several measures in the Treasury's economic program. Steve Linde reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Moda'i] I was not very happy to hear the ambassador of the United States of America last Friday [3 May], in a public, more or less

open, speech. I know that Ambassador Brown is a good friend of the State of Israel, but he is the ambassador of the United States of America to Israel, and when he expressed his view in such an exceptional way that he never did before—neither did his predecessors—it seems to me that we are reading here some sort of a message, which we'll still have to clarify. [end recording]

Moda'i, Olmert: No Police Change

TA0505192191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 May 91

[Report on interviews with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Health Minister Ehud Olmert, by economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar; outside the Knesset after the 5 May Cabinet meeting—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [begin recording] [Moda'i] The Americans are not obliged to extend aid to Israel: not the current aid, and certainly not the extended aid for the absorption of immigrants. If, however, the United States of America is the only democratic superpower in the world and the world's policeman and supervisor and helper, I believe it should address the issue of immigrant absorption, which is the most classical case in which such a less or more friendly—I hope it is the latter—superpower should come to the aid of small countries. This is a humanitarian case of unprecedented scope unknown to the modern world.

[Olmert] The significance of the situation is that if we cede to the American dictate, the question is where will it stop. It may have started with loan guarantees, tomorrow it will continue with foreign aid, and then with the supply of vital weapons. I mean to say that, at some point, we must decide on our order of priorities of which we should advise the Americans. We will decide our way, and they will decide theirs.

[Segal] Israel will not change its settlement policy?

[Moda'i] I did not say that Israel...[changes thought] Of course it will not change its policy, but first and foremost, it will not change any aspect of its policy as a result of economic pressures, I can say that in no uncertain terms. Even if we have to share our last resources with the new immigrants, there is no way we will change it.

[Segal] Cabinet ministers believe that the U.S. ambassador's remarks were in fact a dispatch from Washington. Thus, they had no choice but to recall the Bank of Israel governor's report stating that without foreign currency, the Israeli economy will have to deal with deep recession and the Israeli public will have to suffer harsh economic measures. [end recording]

Moda'i Criticizes Expediting Settlements

TA0605055391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 May 91

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i believes that those who expedite the establishment of settlements in the territories are admitting their fears that Israel might not be able to maintain its territorial integrity. Moda'i added that he is willing to be flexible in order to promote the peace process. The finance minister was speaking at a rally of the National Liberal Forum. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Yitzhaq Moda'i does not see any reason to expedite the establishment of settlements. That would have been appropriate during the intifadah, he said. Today the process is being expedited for fear of political changes, and the results are counterproductive.

[Moda'i] Those who instigate the establishment of settlements at present apparently feel ill at ease about Israel's territorial integrity. I would not instigate the establishment of settlements because this is tantamount to admitting our fears that the State of Israel might be unable to maintain its territorial integrity—and I have no such fears. [passage omitted]

Visiting CSFR Premier on Sale of Soviet Tanks

TA0505192891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Czechoslovakia's prime minister, Marian Calfa, has confirmed that his country is prepared to sell the latest Soviet-designed T-72 tank to Syria, or any country which wants them. Calfa is in Israel as a guest of the World Jewish Congress. Jack Katzenell reports:

Speaking through an interpreter, Prime Minister Calfa told reporters that Czechoslovakia has decided to go over to production for peaceful purposes. But, in the meantime, it has a huge tank factory in Slovakia, employing 80,000 highly skilled workers. To convert it for civilian production will cost a huge capital investment which Czechoslovakia does not have. The only way to earn the necessary hard currency is to use the existing capacity to manufacture more T-72's for anyone prepared to buy them, including Syria. I know this poses a threat to Israel, Calfa said. I am not a cynical man, but what choice do we have?

He made no secret of his hopes of raising investment from Jewish businessmen at the World Jewish Congress, opening tonight in Jerusalem, and from Israeli entrepreneurs, whom he will be meeting.

Calfa himself is a Slovak, and he expressed confidence that the separatist tendencies reemerging in Slovakia can be contained. Slovakian aspirations for self-determination can be satisfied in the framework of the Czechoslovak Federation, he said. The resurging anti-Semitism in Slovakia can also be dealt with. But, if we simply close down the tank factory in Slovakia at a time when it has foreign customers, without providing alternative employment, this will be interpreted there as discrimination by the federal government in Prague, Calfa warned.

Calfa reminded the reporters that Czechoslovakia took part in the allied war effort in the Gulf. We do have relations with the PLO, he conceded, but during the war, we were on opposite sides of the river.

Unlike Western European leaders, Calfa has no ambitions to play a role in the Middle East peace efforts. We have enough problems of our own, he said.

Comments on Arms Industry; Meets Shamir

LD0605093191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0900 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Israel: Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa told newsmen in Jerusalem that if the West does not invest to help Czechoslovakia develop new industries for peaceful production, we will have no option but to sell tanks. He pointed out in this context that if Czechoslovak arms factories were closed down, some 80,000 highly qualfied Slovak workers would lose their jobs. Marian Calfa is the guest of the World Jewish Congress and is the first Czechoslovak Prime Minister ever to visit Israel.

On his visit he has already met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to discuss possibilities for investment in Czechoslovakia.

Meets With Shamir

TA0605111091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on Czechoslovakia to stop selling arms to the Arab world. Shamir met this morning with visiting Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa. David Ze'ev reports:

The Czechoslovak prime minister had said yesterday his country is prepared to sell the latest Soviet-design T-72 tanks to Syria, or any other country that wants them. Today, Marian Calfa met with his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhaq Shamir, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

Shamir told him the Soviet Bloc always acted negatively towards Israel, and one way this was expressed was through large arms sales to Arab states. Prime Minister Calfa responded that Czechoslovak industry is now undergoing a transition from primarily military to civilian production. The Czechoslovak premier insisted his country would not repeat its mistakes of the past.

But Prime Minister Shamir responded that that was not enough. The changes going on in Czechoslovakia, said Shamir, would take some time, but the arms sales to the Arab countries must stop sooner. Shamir also protested over Czechoslovakia's positive relations, as he put it, with the PLO, saying it was similar to the ties that existed between the organization and other Soviet Bloc countries which served as bases for PLO terror activities.

Calfa answered that Prague has learned the lessons of the Gulf war and has scaled down its ties with the PLO.

Discusses Arms to Arabs

LD0605155991 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1200 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Federal Prime Minister Marian Calfa continues his official visit to Israel. Our colleague Tomas Kulka phoned us this report from Jerusalem:

[Kulka] Federal Prime Minister Marian Calfa has been received by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. There was a very open exchange of views between the representatives of the two countries. Talking about the issue of Czechoslovak arms deliveries to Arab countries, especially deliveries of (?T-72) tanks to Syria, Marian Calfa said that the fundamental program of Czechoslovak policy is to stop arms exports completely and gradually transform the arms industry to civilian use.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was not satisfied with such an answer, since the conversion of the arms industry will take several years. He asked Prime Minister Calfa about Czechoslovakia revizing its traditional policy of military support to the arab states which are in a state of war with Israel.

The agenda of the talks also contained a demand that Czechoslovakia make it possible for Jews from the Soviet Union who want to settle in Israel to cross Czechoslovak territory. It has also been agreed that mutual cooperation between the two countries, in particular in economy and science and technology, would be significantly widened.

2 Air Force Pilots Killed in Training Accident

TA0505200991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] An Air Force plane crashed during a training accident in northern Israel this morning, and its two crewmen were killed. Their families have been notified. The Air Force commander has appointed a commission to probe the circumstances of the accident.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that one of the pilots was 22-year-old Captain Yuval Glick. The name of the second pilot has not been released.

Danish Foreign Minister Meets With Shamir

PM0305124991 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 30 Apr 91 p 8

[Hanne Foighel report: "The EC Will Not Be Kept Out"]

[Text] Jerusalem—Uffe Ellemann-Jensen arrived in Israel with a message from the EC that under no circumstances will Europe be excluded from a peace conference, but he emerged optimistic from his talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, among others.

"In Israel people are not saying 'no' to the possiblity of a peace conference in the Middle East which could take the form of a large forum embracing many countries,

could signal the start of a number of direct negotiations, and could thereafter be reconvened at intervals to keep the various sides informed," Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said in Jerusalem yesterday.

In the days leading up to the Danish foreign minister's visit this very formula had been at the center of an acrimonious conflict in the Israeli Government.

"Let us just see what negotiations there will be; there are so many possibilities," Shamir said in response to the Danish foreign minister.

In Uffe Ellemann-Jensen's view, one possibility is for the United States and the Soviet Union to issue an invitation to a conference in which the EC is a participant.

In his talks with Shamir Uffe Ellemann-Jensen raised the question of Israel's settlement policy and its attitude to the Palestinian population as two areas in which Israel ought to show flexibility and demonstrate its desire for peace. In return the EC will try to get the Arab trade boycott against firms which trade with Israel lifted. The Israeli prime minister showed no flexibility here.

Immediately before his meeting with Shamir Uffe Ellemann-Jensen met in East Jerusalem with a nine-man delegation of Palestinians including Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, who is chairman of the Palestinian journalists' association and who was released a few weeks ago from five months of administrative detention.

The Palestinians were not prepared to accept Denmark's very sharp rejection of the PLO as a possible negotiating partner because of the organization's support for Saddam Husayn.

After the meeting the foreign minister said that the Palestinians were very moderate in their remarks and that their desire for negotiations was most positive.

Talks With Arens

PM0305133591 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 1 May 91 p 8

[Hanne Foighel report: "Israel: Arabs Do Not Want Peace"]

[Text] Tel Aviv—"The Arab countries do not want peace with Israel," Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens told Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen in Tel Aviv yesterday morning shortly before the foreign minister left Israel.

"After the Gulf war it looked as if the Arab countries were interested in peace, but they were unwilling to talk directly with Israel. Their constant call for an international conference is merely an attempt to avoid getting into direct talks with us," Arens told the press immediately after his meeting with the Danish foreign minister.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen made his hosts aware of Denmark's dissatisfaction with Israel's settlement policy and the continued violations of the Palestinian population's human rights.

The Israeli ministers he met tried to make light of the settlements, and on Monday [29 April] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told him that we should "keep that topic for the real negotiations"—a response which the foreign minister considered new and a sign of Israeli "openness." Despite disagreement over some of the central political problems in the region, Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen made no secret of the fact that he represents a pro-Israeli nation and this is the reason for his feeling that he can speak out about things and that he can give Israel good advice.

Paper Rejects Regional Meet Without PLO

TA0305165491 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 2 May 91 p 2

[By AL-TALI'AH editor in chief Bashir al-Barghuthi: "Beware of a First Step in the Wrong Direction!"]

[Text] It is not yet clear whether Baker will resume his shuttle contacts, but it is clear that he has come up against procedural obstacles with regard to the UN's and the conference's role. Apparently the issue of Palestinian representation is not among these obstacles, despite the fact that the PLO has affirmed its commitment to the international conference.

This fact indicates that the U.S. Administration does not consider the Palestinian position to be fundamental, because it does not regard the Palestinian role as essential in upcoming peace negotiations. The administration believes that agreement on procedures between some Arab states and Israel will be adequate for launching the peace process, even in the absence of the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Baker's talks with a Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem in no way alters this reality.

Therefore, a reassessment is in order with regard to Palestinian interest in the procedural points. They should not be regarded as a problem of modalities as some people are inferring. It is obvious that the U.S. and Israeli attempts to assign a very minor role to the procedures for the peace talks seek to focus attention on Arab-Israeli relations as the core of the conflict in the region and not the Palestinian problem. One can deduce from what has been leaked on Baker's talks with some Arab leaders that there is an indifference with regard to this question and the resolutions of Arab legitimacy represented in the decisions of Arab summits.

We have so far not heard of those rulers' insistence on the need for the participation of the PLO—which has been officially recognized in the resolutions of more than

one Arab summit as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative—in the peace conference over which talks are being held with the U.S. Administration and Israel.

It is unwise on the Palestinian level to keep silent or tolerate this Arab indifference, because such indifference generates a series of undesirable retreats, which ultimately lead to tragic results for Palestinian goals.

Without doing injustice to any of the delegation members who met with Baker, these meetings concentrated on the concept that the Palestinians be represented by a delegation from the occupied territories. This is, in fact, what would have taken place had the Israeli Government accepted Baker's plan and the Cairo dialogue between a Palestinian and Israeli delegation.

If there are those who see this as a question of modalities—considering that a delegation from the occupied territories appointed by the PLO would in fact be a PLO delegation—and if we were to overcome Israel's certain objection to such a delegation, agreeing to a delegation from the occupied territories only means relinquishing a principal clause of Security Council Resolution 242, stipulating the achievement of a just solution for the refugee problem.

Since this resolution is the basis of the current political moves for arranging the process of negotiations, it is evident that all the parties that have an interest in the clauses of that resolution should take part in this process. Agreeing to exclude any of those parties means agreeing to exclude its problem from the negotiations. This is something which we certainly cannot be indifferent to or accept since this means the majority of the Palestinian people.

We have put forth this reasoning to prove that the U.S. Administration's and Israel's insistence on the "geography" of representation is not a question of modalities but falls within the framework of the aims which they seek to achieve. Consecutive steps and their direction depend on the first step. One should not forget the experience of al-Sadat, who came to Jerusalem with clear and frank demands, but the other side understood correctly the meaning of al-Sadat's first step—his coming to Jerusalem—as a step toward concluding a separate peace with Israel, and this is what happened.

The current talk about an introductory regional conference, followed by bilateral negotiations, is an invitation for concluding a separate peace with this or that Arab state, leaving the Palestinian people alone to face the United States and Israel, and for conceding that international legitimacy is neither related to the existing conflict in the region nor to Palestinian rights.

Therefore, one should reject this formula of negotiations and should work in the Arab and international arenas for respecting the resolutions of international legitimacy and using them as the basis for negotiations within the framework of an international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO. One should be wary of a mistake in the first step that would determine the following steps and inflict the most serious damage to the national goals.

Bush's Direct Role in Peace Process Urged

TA0305104591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 91 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Schweizer: "An Envoy and His Commitment"]

[Text] It appears that the Talmudic saying, that a man and his emissary are one and the same, is not true in all cases. Israel television correpondent Ehud Ya'ari, reporting last Friday from Washington, said that he had found his Arab interlocutors eager to know whether President Bush would directly and personally involve himself in the Arab-Israeli peace process. We in Israel would like to know just as much as they would. It is not that we do not appreciate the physical and intellectual efforts Secretary of State James Baker has invested in his attempt to effect a meeting between leaders on both sides of the Middle East divide; however, the position of authority President Bush earned in his handling of the Gulf crisis is sorely missed, an authority that apparently cannot be delegated to others.

This shows that many observers of regional events have reached the conclusion that nothing will come of the U.S. efforts if the process continues along the same track and at the same level of contacts.

This is a widespread opinion, which is shared by many in knowledgeable circles in the United States. To put things more bluntly: Maybe even the President will prove incapable of implementing what he promised during the heady hours of the Gulf triumph, or in other words, establishing peace in this part of the world. But without him, without him putting all his weight behind the process, the effort definitely has no chance of achieving results.

This opinion is not unfounded. It seems that the huge apparatus at the disposal of the U.S. Administration, with its legions of experts, ambassadors, and trouble-shooters, needed one man, the man at the top, when the country is faced with an unconventional task. President Bush's administration took on a mission of that kind—to uphold the obligations which a country holding the status of the sole superpower is committed to when facing down a local aggressor. The entire administration worked together to create the circumstances which permitted U.S. action, but it is generally agreed that without the President's personal involvement in the decisions regarding the mode of action, as well as in recruiting the necessary funds at home and overseas, Saddam Husayn would still be sitting in Kuwait.

Jimmy Carter, who today serves as a kind of model for a weak President, a dreamer who was incapable of carrying

things out, proved the validity of the rule Bush implemented in the Gulf on at least two occasions. One instance, the formulation of the Panama Canal treaty (in which the United States gave up its de facto sovereignty over the Panama Canal area), is not familiar to most Israelis, and a short recapitulation is called for. Besides understanding that the matter was ripe for urgent and radical treatment, Carter was also the one who recruited the necessary support for the relevant legislation, while having to stand up to a doubtful Congress and Senate, and motivate an indifferent public.

The other instance is well known to us: The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty would not have been born if President Carter had not discerned (contrary to his own conception of the Middle East crisis) that the conditions were already ripe to resolve one sector of the regional conflict. Once Carter spotted the possibility, he immersed himself totally in implementing the solution, while putting his domestic political standing at risk, and virtually ignoring his other responsibilities as president. In these two cases, Carter, much like Bush in the Gulf, acted personally and not through emissaries, even though he was not short of envoys.

Now we can draw the conclusions that have relevance for us: Bush apparently does not feel the same degree of commitment for the Middle East peace process, as he did in formulating his response to Saddam Husayn's challenge; or, perhaps as Carter felt at the time regarding the Panama Canal Treaty or making peace between Israel and Egypt. It is not the overcautiousness he was accused of by a NEW YORK TIMES columnist that keeps him from getting personally involved in the Arab-Israeli peace process. On the contrary, it is Bush's limited commitment to the process that leads him to act prudently and send an emissary whose possible failure will not hurt the President too much.

President Bush has proven that under certain conditions he is willing to put his political future at risk. If he does not adopt the same fearless attitude he took in confronting the Gulf War challenge, now, when dealing with the Arab-Israeli peace process, it must surely be because he considers the latter to be far less important than the former. In the terms of realpolitik, Saddam Husayn threatened to become a global issue, while as far as Bush is concerned, the Arab-Israeli conflict is just a local, or at worst a regional problem.

This is the answer to Ehud Ya'ari's Arab interlocutors, and it will remain valid even if Bush is begged to personally play a role in the process. Jimmy Carter did not have to be cajoled to intervene in Panama and in Israeli-Egyptian affairs. Nobody had to exhort Bush to teach Saddam Husayn not to play with a superpower. A presidential sense of commitment is needed to bring about the kind of involvement powerful enough to remove heavy obstacles. And it is the rule that proves the exception.

Inter-Arab Dispute Seen as Cause of Murder

TA0205162991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 May 91 p 9

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Murder on a Tense Crossroad"]

[Text] It is tempting to link the murder of the French tourist in Bethlehem to the chain of intifadah stabbing murders. Furthermore, on the very day of the Bethlehem murder, an Israeli was stabbed near Ramla in what appeared to be similar circumstances. A detailed examination of the murder, however, reveals a totally different background, which, although it is certainly part of the broad and general background of the violent intifadah, presents a new and very dangerous development in an increasing Lebanonization of Israel.

On the margins of the Palestinian struggle against Israel, in Bethlehem and vicinity, there have been processes that caused deep concern for the Christian community, which stood out with its moderate nature and tendency to Westernize. Even before the intifadah started, the best of Bethlehem's young generation emigrated to the West. Their place was taken by Muslim families, mainly from the Hebron area. That, in turn, strengthened the political importance of the refugee camps around Bethlehem, such as Ayda, al-'Azza, and al-Duhayshah, which were populated by Muslims. Therefore, in an almost natural manner, when Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—the fruit of the intifadah—appeared on the scene, it found a stronghold in the area of Bethlehem, of all places. And where Hamas appears, its main rival, the Islamic Jihad Movement, had to emerge as well. Strange as it may sound, the first successful strike staged by Islamic Jihad in the West Bank took place in Bayt Sahur some 18 months ago. (Stranger still, it was held in cooperation with the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]). Here, in the Christian sector, the Islamic Jihad broke into the West Bank from the Gaza Strip.

The residents of Bayt Sahur won a reputation in the intifadah with their famous tax revolt, for which they suffered a great deal from Israel. Less well remembered is the fact that not only Israel fought against them; Hamas did as well. The more famous and prestigious the Christian model of struggle became, the more it was disregarded by Hamas activists in the area. Their attitude was intensified because the movement was also run by the PFLP, that nationalist-Marxist movement headed by the Christian George Habash. Not only did Hamas fail to support Bayt Sahur with encouragement and congratulation, but at the peak of the struggle, Hamas published a poisonous leaflet casting doubt on the sincerity of the struggle and making racist accusations against them, which, had they been directed at the Jews, would have been termed anti-Semitic. Hamas later denied the leaflet, but the Christians knew the truth. Hamas' pressure motivated the young Christians to set up their own organization—Hamam—replacing the S,

for Islam, with an M, for messianism. Eventually, the very fact that they had to admit a Christian-Muslim rift prevented the Christians from acting on their idea.

The Gulf war made the situation worse. Saddam Husayn employed the religious Muslim motif to an unprecedented extent (even when compared to Iran), and he said that his fight was a war against the "crusaders" of the Christian West—a continuation of the Muslim war against Christianity. Apparently, this is how Saddam's message was understood in Bethlehem. When all eyes were directed at Kuwait, Christian institutions in Bethlehem were exposed to strictly criminal offenses. The burglaries, however, were accompanied by anti-Christian signs, which did not even spare the Christian cemetery. Whoever was not familiar with this development could not understand why Samir Qafi'ti, the head of the Anglican Church, had published an article in AL-QUDS entitled: "This Is the Cross." The article was meant to explain that the cross is not the enemy of the Arabs, and that the Christian Arabs are no Crusaders, never have been, are deeply rooted in the Arab tribes, and have made significant contributions to Arab culture, both before and after the appearance of Islam.

As if the tensions between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which were exacerbated by the crisis in the Gulf, and the conflict with the Christians, were not enough, a new cause of tension has recently appeared. This new factor is not confined to Bethlehem, and it has spread throughout the entire West Bank. Most of the tension flows from the Unified National Command of the Uprising's [UNCU] intention to make the intifadah easier to live with. These steps have two complimentary causes. On the one hand, there are the pressures from the street, from the merchants and Palestinian financial elements who demand that the strikes be eased, and from parents who ask that their children become involved as little as possible in the intifadah and hope that the schools and colleges are taken out of the circle of violence. On the other hand, the UNCU also wants to participate in the framework of mutual "gestures" that Secretary of State Baker has asked of Israel and the Arab countries. They see such participation as a ticket into the political process. When the UNCU wants to accept Baker's demands, therefore, as expressed in the meetings with al-Husayni and his colleagues, it knows it can be sure of public support.

Things are not so simple, however. The UNCU's readiness to progress toward easing the intifadah leads to the question of who makes up the UNCU leadership anyway? And are all the organizations comprised by it really interested in purchasing the "ticket" to the political process.

Uprising Leaflet No. 70 appeared yesterday, almost a week late. The leaflet detailed the measures designed to ease the intifadah. The delay in the leaflet's appearance was no coincidence. The details of the pitched battle waged by the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] against the easing of the intifadah have leaked out to the Palestinian streets through the heavy shroud of secrecy that envelops the formulation of the leaflets. Habash and Hawatimah voiced their total opposition to any move toward the United States during the PLO Central Council's debates last week in Tunisia, and it was in that light that their supporters in the territories saw the UNCU's intention to announce measures easing the intifadah. They attributed it to the general tendency, followed by the PLO's mainstream and by al-Husayni and his colleagues, toward mending the Palestinians' relations with the United States. While al-Husayni spoke of the need to ease up on the strikes, the joint leaflets called for precisely the opposite: to exacerbate the intifadah. [sentence as published] The struggle around the meeting with Baker was, therefore, a much deeper and more dangerous sign, which touched the very roots of the arguments regarding the nature of the intifadah and the path it must take.

The UNCU published a special leaflet in Jerusalem a day before the murder, in which it called for a strike in Jerusalem only to protest the government's decision to Judaize the eastern part of the city. When the leaflet began to enumerate the detrimental effects on tourism to the holy places, it made the following statement: "The Unified National Command of the Uprising, out of concern not to shut down the tourism, which plays an important role in the economy, calls on all the friends of our people throughout the world to come and visit the holy places and the tourist and archaeological sites. The Unified National Command of the Uprising considers those tourists, when they use the Arab hotels and tour buses, to be the guests of our people, and it promises to provide them with all necessary comfort, security, and protection."

One of the sectors that pressed most to ease the intifadah's restrictions was the restaurants. Restaurant owners claimed that they had borne the heaviest economic burden during the intifadah, as it is impossible to run a restaurant that is open only in the morning. If one wants to rejuvenate tourism, then obviously one must have restaurants open throughout the entire day and until late at night. With hindsight, therefore, the attack in the restaurant seems almost called for.

It is difficult not to connect the disseminated leaflet and the fatal stabbing in the restaurant. It was as though the murderer and his operators wished to prove that the UNCU may be capable of producing pretty leaflets but has no real power.

Faysal al-Husayni visited the Orthodox school in Bayt Sahur on 28 April. According to the report in AL-FAJR, al-Husayni one day later issued statements reflecting the contents of the UNCU leaflet published only yesterday. Thus, al-Husayni apparently sent out broad hints regarding the identity of the UNCU leadership and just who stands at its helm. Again, those issues are not at all simple, because the PLO's Central Committee in Tunis received several letters signed by the "Unified National Command of the Uprising." Each letter differed in

content and represented a different party. The writer of this article knows of two letters, and there were probably more.

We have seen on previous occasions that at times of extreme disagreement between the DFLP, the PFLP, and Fatah, or between the Palestinians in the territories and those in Tunis, several versions of the UNCU leaflets appear. One group will not easily accept another group's presumption to speak exclusively for the UNCU.

The murderer was not only out to undermine the status of al-Husayni. He also sought to hurt Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who has recently gained prominence, much to the dismay of the radical elements. Not only did Frayj attend the tainted meetings with Baker, but he also preceded his moderate colleagues in speaking out against Saddam Husayn, and in support of meeting with Baker. A special warning leaflet was published against Frayj and against another important Christian figure from East Jerusalem in order to intimidate them. Frayj was not only undeterred; the municipality has even recently become the focus of organized Christian resistance to the Muslim attacks on their institutions. The Christians speak about "criminals" so as not to increase tensions unnecessarily, but everybody in Bethlehem knows how to crack the code. The Andelos Restaurant is at the focus of the new friction: a Christian restaurant hosting Christian pilgrims ("Crusaders"), under the patronage of the Bethlehem municipality. The Christian institutions recently convened and came out with a tough communique, which could have been construed by Muslim circles to mean that they were organizing to fight back. The Andelos Restaurant is at the dangerous meeting point of the struggle waged by fundamentalist Islam against Christianity in general, and of the attempt by the moderate nationalistic elements to join the political process. The tourist was stabbed at a restaurant situated next to Bethlehem's municipality only one day after the UNCU announced that the Palestinian people would protect tourists, particularly at the holy places, and only a few days after Faysal al-Husayni's visit to Bayt Sahur. The Hamas leaflet, for whoever has forgotten, asserts that they are still waiting for Faysal al-Husayni and his friends "to repent" after meeting Baker.

Israelis must not regard these bloody battles as if they are taking place in Honolulu and are the troubles of another nation. This is a clear process of Lebanonization, and it will not stop at the Green Line. We also have our own "Hamas," and it will strike at us if we do not extricate ourselves from the no-win situation inherent in the lack of peace, or in the absence of a real political process.

Druze Clash With Police During Demonstration

TA0605094191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 May 91 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer and ITIM]

[Text] Three Jerusalem police officers were injured yesterday in a stormy demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office by hundreds of Druse citizens protesting against alleged budget discrimination. At one point demonstrators broke through a police barricade and surged towards the building before being dispersed with tear gas. At a meeting yesterday with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, Interior Minister Arye Der'i, and representatives of the Druse community, Moda'i affirmed that the government's policy is to provide Druse citizens with the same level of resources and services as the rest of the country. Representatives of the three sides are to meet in the next few weeks to ensure this policy is carried out. Moda'i said that, in accordance with an agreement worked out two months ago, the government will spend NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 21 million per year in 1991, 1992, and 1993 on infrastructure development in Druse villages.

Intifadah Incidents Updated 1 May

TA0105105091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 May 91 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] The security forces in the Gaza Strip yesterday boarded up the home of Fathi Husayn Bawab, who is suspected of having led the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's [PFLP] military apparatus in the Gaza Strip. He instructed PFLP activists to carry out terrorist operations against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces. [passage omitted]

There were minor disturbances in the Gaza Strip yesterday. According to Palestinian sources, four locals were hurt during clashes with the IDF: two Gazans and two Khan Yunus residents. The representative of the IDF spokesman in the Gaza Strip reported that no injuries were registered in the Strip.

The security forces in town captured a masked youth wielding a weapon.

The Gaza military court handed down stiff sentences to two terrorists: Iyad 'Abdallah Majid and Husayn Mahmud 'Awad were found guilty of membership in Fatah and of hurling firebombs at an IDF position. They were also convicted of manufacturing a gun which they used to shoot at IDF units. They were given 15 years' imprisonment.

The court also sentenced Ibrahim 'Awad Jabir Damari to two life sentences for membership in a Fatah strike committee and for complicity in the murder of collaborators in the Gaza Strip.

The body of Hammadiyah Muhammad Hamdan al-Tahir, 27, was brought to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus yesterday. He sustained head and chest injuries and his body was found in his office in Town. Al-Tahir was the son of one of the Rafah area mukhtars and Arab locals believe he was murdered on suspected collaboration with the authorities.

Since the beginning of the month 21 Gaza Strip residents have been assassinated for suspected assistance to the authorities.

The security forces yesterday sealed up the apartment of 'Abd Ya'qub Muhtasib from Hebron who was found guilty of throwing several homemade explosive charges at military and civilian vehicles in Hebron and of throwing firebombs at an IDF position in Bet Romano in town. His apartment was sealed after the High Court of Justice rejected his family's appeal against the move.

Four Jewish girls from Beersheba were hurt yesterday when rocks were thrown at the Egged bus transporting the children on a school trip near the Arab village of al-Zayin [placename as published] on the Ma'ale Adumim road north of Jerusalem. Several windows were smashed. The girls, aged 15 and 16, were slightly injured from glass shards and received medical treatment at Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Fayiz Muhammad Mahmud Mahdawi, 28, from the Tulkarm refugee camp, who had been on the security forces' wanted list for over a year, was caught two days ago. He is considered one of the most senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the area.

[Michael Rotem, reporting from Tel Aviv on page 1 of the 1 May issue of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, adds that "a Gaza man who fatally stabbed two men and a woman in Yafo in December was sentenced in District Court here yesterday to three life sentences.

["One of the judges said he thought the terrorist should have been sentenced to death."]

2 Arabs Killed; Other Incidents in Territories

TA0305114591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 May 91 pp 1, 20

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpt] A masked Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] attacker was shot dead by his planned victim yesterday, after he and several others stormed the house of a Jabalyah camp resident suspected of working for the authorities, Gaza sources said.

It was the first reported incident of an alleged informer killing his attacker in Gaza. It comes after a record or near-record month of attacks by masked activists on alleged informers.

Gaza sources identified the dead man as Ghassan Abu-Nida, 22. Demonstrations erupted in Jabalyah after the shooting, and hundreds of youths threw stones at the military outpost there as soldiers took the gunman out of the camp. Soldiers retaliated with gravel cannons. Helicopters circled overhead.

Military sources confirmed that a Palestinian was killed in the camp by another Palestinian and that demonstrations followed.

In Silat al-Harithiyah, northwest of Janin, three men wearing green masks and black uniforms, apparently from Hamas, knocked on the door of Muhammad Abu-Khayr, 40, and shot him twice when he opened it. He died in Janin Hospital. Troops placed a curfew on the village.

Betzelem, a human rights information center, reported that 26 Palestinians were killed by other Palestinians in April, while six had been fatally wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire.

A 12-year-old girl, Nahla Istati, was taken to Janin Hospital after allegedly being shot from a military outpost, local sources said. Mahdi Abu-Ghazzala, 19, was shot in the head in Nabulus and taken to al-Ittihad Hospital, but the circumstances of the shooting were unclear, the sources said. Military sources said they had no report on the incidents.

Yesterday morning, troops burst into a coffeehouse on the main square in Nabulus and arrested four youths, local sources said. [passage omitted]

Incidents in Territories 3-4 May

TA0505102191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 May 91 p 5

[Report by Mikhal Sela', Yoram Levi, and the correspondent in the south]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Hasan Abu-Jarrad, 19, from Bayt Hanun died of his wounds at Gaza's al-Shifa' Hospital on Thursday. He had been shot in the head last October and had since been moved back and forth from Tel Hashomer Hospital to al-Shifa' Hospital. [passage omitted]

A 14-year-old boy was wounded yesterday in the village of Si'ir as an unidentified object he was playing with exploded in his hands. It has been learned from 'Aliya Hospital in Hebron that his hands and legs were burned, but he is in satisfactory condition.

Curfews were imposed yesterday on various locations in the West Bank, including Qabatiyah and Silat al-Harithiyah near Janin.

Palestinian sources reported that Israeli Army authorities uprooted 30 pine trees in the village of Baqah al-Sharqiyah.

In 'Aqqabah, a small village near Janin, three shepherds recounted that settlers from 'Irit beat them and extinguished cigarettes on them. Mas'ud Abu-Agha was beaten and received head injuries, Walid Abu-Ghanim was burned by cigarettes, and 15-year-old 'Afif Abu-Agha was seriously beaten and injured.

Settlers in Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus attempted to fence off two dunam of land near their yeshiva. Local residents complained to the Civil Administration, and the Army stopped their action. [passage omitted]

About 50 masked men rioted in the village of Silwan on Friday night. They blocked an inner road and pelted a Border Police unit with stones. The policemen fired tear gas, rubber bullets, and warning shots into the air. Nobody was hurt.

The curfew on the Shu'fat refugee camp was lifted early Friday morning. The 24-hour curfew had been imposed in the wake of riots in which a local resident was severely wounded by a policeman's gunfire. Several suspected rioters were rounded up during the curfew.

Three cars were set ablaze over the weekend in East Jerusalem. Two cars belonging to Arabs were burned Thursday night, one near the Nusaybah tenement in the northern part of the city and another near the Commodore Hotel. An Israeli car parked on Ibn-Sina Street was set on fire Friday night and seriously damaged. The police arrested several suspects.

Around the same time, two firebombs were thrown at a Border Police unit at the al-Tur junction. The firebombs shattered on the road but did not ignite. The police fired live ammunition at the perpetrators, but no casualties were reported.

[A report by Eytan Rabin, Yizhar Be'er, and ITIM on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 5 May adds: "A local Arab suspected of collaborating with the authorities was murdered by masked men in the al-Burayj refugee camp yesterday. A resident of Khan Yunus was seriously wounded when masked men shot him for similar suspicions.

["Palestinian sources reported that four residents were injured yesterday in clashes with the Army in the Khan Yunus and Jabalyah refugee camps.

["The Army imposed curfews on the Jabalyah refugee camp and on Bayt Lahiyah. A spokesman for the Southern Command said that quiet prevailed elsewhere in the Gaza Strip, and that no casualties had been reported." Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 5 May reports that "the curfews imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp and the village of Bayt Lahiyah were lifted this morning, leaving the Gaza Strip free of curfews."]

Prime Minister Badran Receives PLO Delegation 4 May

JN0405175391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1705 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] At his office this evening, Prime Minister Mudar Badran received a PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas and including Messrs Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab. Also present at the meeting were Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Palestine's ambassador in Amman Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim. They discussed recent Middle East developments and interntional efforts to promote a fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

The PLO delegation discussed with the prime minister their recent visits to Moscow and Cairo and talks with the Soviet foreign minister and Egyptian officials. The meeting also considered Jordan-PLO coordination at a projected Arab League session and the next trip to the Middle East by the U.S. secretary of state and USSR foreign minister. Emerging from the meeting, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, spoke to our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How close is Jordan-PLO coordination?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are coordinating closely and on an ongoing basis, and are in considerable agreement on various issues, especially regarding the latest moves. I would like to stress that we are in constant touch with our brothers in Jordan. We hold that an international conference based on UN resolutions can help advance the peace process. There can be no real peace conference without an independent, equal Palestinian participation comprising a delegation of Palestinians from the inside and outside of the occupied Arab territory—a point which the PLO has emphasized in resolutions of the recent Palestine Central Council session, and on which we have received the support of the prime minister during our meeting today. We discussed this and other issues of common concern with a view to furthering our relations.

[Correspondent] You arrived here from Cairo. Is there a dialogue going on now between the PLO and Egypt or other Arab states?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Certainly there is a dialogue going on with Egypt. Our Palestinian Central Council session urged that the five states with a stake in the peace process—the PLO, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon—work out a united, coordinated position. Our Jordanian brothers share our thinking on this matter. We must handle future developments in a united Arab spirit inspired by Arab summit resolutions and Arab and international legitimacy. [end recording]

King Confers With Delegation

JN0505152891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon a PLO delegation made up of Mahmud 'Abbas, Executive Committee member, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab. His majesty explained Jordan's position on all aspects of the U.S. peace initiative. He listened to a detailed explanation of Palestinian views on the subject and the outcome of PLO contacts with a number of concerned states. Afterward, the two sides exchanged views on the elements of the peace plan and the positions of influential international political circles in light of recent developments in the Middle East.

His majesty stressed the importance of international legitimacy, whether concerning the basis of the peace process or the peaceful settlement we seek to achieve. He reaffirmed that Jordan insists on the participation of the Palestinians in the conference, because they are the only side with the right to discuss the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the king's political adviser, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

PLO Works To Strengthen Political Coordination

JN0505105791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 May 91 pp 1, 5

[Article by Lamis K. Andoni]

[Excerpts] Amman—Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials arrived in Amman on Saturday and went into talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran to coordinate a joint position towards the U.S.-initiated Middle East peace process.

A senior PLO official later said that the organisation was seeking a meeting for the five front line states in addition to Jordan and the PLO, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon to coordinate a unified Arab negatiating position.

"I believe that our brothers in Jordan share the same objective," PLO executive member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told Jordan Television following the meeting.

Palestinian officials in Amman said the delegation was also preparing the ground for a visit by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to Jordan amid reports that the U.S. is promoting a peace process involving talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team.

Troubleshooter Mahmud 'Abbas, who is heading the visiting delegation which includes besides Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, executive committee member Sulayman al-Najab, arrived here after a brief fence-mending mission to Cairo.

The date of Mr. 'Arafat's arrival in Jordan was not disclosed but he was expected to confer with His Majesty King Husayn prior to the King's expected visit to Washington in a few weeks' time.

The decision to strengthen political coordination with Jordan, according to Palestinian officials, is crucial to the organisation's diplomatic move to block American attempts to marginalise its role and "bypass" the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The PLO's Central Council (PCC), which convened in Tunis on April 21, has rejected the U.S.-advocated regional conference or any negotiating forum unless it was sponsored by the United Nations.

The PCC, however, has given Mr. 'Arafat the green light to show flexibility towards the peace process, as long as he adheres to the main elements of the PLO's 1988 peace initiative which called for the setting up of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, the sources said. [passage omitted]

"There can be no genuine peace conference without a Palestinian representation," said Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh. "The delegation should include Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories."

PLO officials said that the idea of setting up a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation was not discussed at the PCC but that none of the Palestinian groups has opposed closer coordination with Jordan.

The officials said that Mr. 'Arafat will arrive in Amman soon, heading a delegation representing all the Palestinian groups to start talks with His Majesty King Husayn.

Mr. 'Arafat is evidently trying to secure the backing of all the major factions within the organisation for any agreement or understanding he reaches with Jordan. [passage omitted]

Even though Jordan and the PLO do not necessarily hold identical views on means to move the peace process, both sides will not compromise on two major issues: First, that any negotiations should be based on the principle of exchanging land for peace, which Israel has so far rejected. Second, that there should be an immediate halt to the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; Israel officials have repeatedly rejected any linkage between the settlements and the peace process.

Furthermore, the idea of a confederation with Jordan—once resented by many Palestinians—is now seen as a welcomed option by an increasing number of Palestinians. A recent opinion poll has shown that at least 60 per cent of the Palestinians in the West Bank support confederation with Jordan.

But analysts say that both Jordan and the PLO might not press for a joint—at least public—position on the issue of the joint negotiating delegation and a future confederation as they will both wait for the Israeli stand before embarking on such a move.

Judging by statements made by Jordanian and Palestinian officials, both sides do not expect the Israeli government to accept any kind of territorial concessions and anticipate that this intransigence is more than capable of thwarting the peace process.

House Delegation, DFLP's Hawatimah Discuss Dialogue

JN0105085391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 May 91 p 14

[Text] Khartoum—The delegation of the Jordanian House of Representatives to the Arab and Islamic Forces Conference led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat has met with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

They addressed the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship at all levels, as well as relations among all groups within the Jordanian House of Representatives and the Palestine National Council.

They also discussed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's moves and his project to resolve the Middle East crisis within the framework of a regional conference and the two-track approach.

During the meeting, Hawatimah stressed the need for the PLO and Jordan to consult and coordinate with each other and establish bilateral relations on stable ground that guarantees joint cooperation in the present and future toward resolving the Middle East crisis. He indicated that the PLO Central Council has decided to activate the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue on holding an international peace conference based on international legitimacy resolutions.

Al-Masri Says UK, U.S. Differ on Palestine Issue

JN0505101491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 May 91 pp 1, 14

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that there is a clear disparity between the U.S. and British positions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, contrary to their identical positions on the Gulf crisis.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Masri added: We feel that the British position on the Palestine question is far more advanced than the U.S. one.

He said that the British position on the issue of Palestinian representation involving the PLO, the form of the peace conference, and Israeli settlement of the occupied territories is closer to the Jordanian and Arab position on these issues, than the U.S. position.

The foreign minister spoke to SAWT AL-SHA'B following British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's visit to Jordan which came a few days after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Jordan.

Al-Masri said that such visits stress Jordan's important role in the region and in resolving the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Regarding Hurd's visit to Jordan, he pointed out that, in his opinion, it had two objectives. First, to become familiar with the Jordanian position on the U.S. efforts in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to present the British position on these efforts.

The two sides found great similarity in their positions and ideas. Their ideas are identical on the objective of the peace conference that must be held to implement international legitimacy based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

There is also agreement on the illegitimacy and illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Arab occupied territories that are considered an obstacle on the road to peace.

Moreover, it transpired that the British position on the PLO participation and the form of the peace conference differs from the U.S. position and comes close to the Jordanian one.

Al-Masri concluded by saying that the second objective of the visit was bilateral relations. In this regard, Hurd said that the relations have taken a new beginning and that the differences that existed on the Gulf crisis did not affect the relations between the two countries.

U.S. 'Puzzle,' UK 'Distinctions' Criticized

JN0405081591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 May 91 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The American Puzzle and the British View"]

[Text] Following U.S. Secretary of State Baker's third tour of the region, which came to an end upon the death of his mother, the U.S. Administration's picture of Baker's mission is a greater puzzle. Despite strong obstacles in the way, President Bush is not pessimistic. At the same time, he does not intend to send the secretary of state back to the region soon to complete his mission despite the "progress" he made.

While Washington spoke about Israel impeding peace through its settlement policy, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney hastened yesterday to emphasize that U.S.-Israeli relations are now stronger than ever before, and that he intends to visit Israel within a week to sign a memorandum of understanding to develop Israel's missiles. The Arabs can clearly see a bizarre U.S. puzzle.

On another level, it is noted that the British view expressed by Douglas Hurd makes distinctions in international legitimacy. It differentiates between the approach used in handling the Gulf crisis, as it materialized, and the approach that should be adopted to deal with Israel! It is as though the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis were binding and those on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict were not.

The U.S. puzzle and the British view, of course, cast undeniable doubt on the future of Baker's mission in the region, which is said to be the introduction to the peace process. It is therefore necessary for the Arabs to remember a basic fact; namely, that through all the periods of fragmentation they experienced, their problems were not a single step closer to solution. Naturally, this will also be the case now. If current fragmentation should continue, the U.S. puzzle and the British view will remain unchanged, and the Arabs will have to deal only with a mirage.

Arab cohesiveness and common pan-Arab action is a prerequisite for a true peace process in the region. Puzzles and discriminative views toward world legitimacy do not strengthen the belief that the region will see serious steps in the foreseeable future to force the Israeli aggressors to abandon the occupied territories, abide by international resolutions, and acknowledge the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and restoration of their lands. Unless the Arabs underscore their presence and role, they will gain nothing but hinted optimism at times and statements defending double standards at others. They might even come under pressure to agree to make concessions that will liquidate their issues. Current Arab divisions give a golden opportunity to the aggressors and to those who seek to dominate the region.

Hurd Said 'Unfair' on Kuwait, West Bank Occupations

JN0405060191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4 May 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Lines in the Sand"]

[Text] In his press conference on Thursday, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd made an unfair distinction between the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, South Lebanon and the Golan Heights. He justified the distinction on the grounds that Kuwait was an independent state, a member of the United Nations and the Arab League; and since it was occupied in one day the world was almost unanimous in condemning the Iraqi occupation and had insisted on reversing the Iraqi "aggression" just as soon. Mr. Hurd, however, could not see that virtually the same applies to the Arab territories occupied by Israel some 24 years ago. Surely the British foreign secretary concedes that Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are also independent states, members of the U.N. and the Arab League. The fact that territories of these three Arab states were occupied and partially annexed in a matter of days or months or even years is not and should not be the basis for a political or juridical distinction between the two situations. Occupation and

annexation are exactly what they are, irrespective of whether such forced change in territorial status occurs in one day or one year. So why all this fine distinction and hair splitting when the principles involved in the two situations are identical in law if not in fact?

The British government and like-minded regimes in the world need only check with the Labour Party's leadership in Israel to realise that the right-wing Likud government is not interested in peace with its Arab neighbours and is not in a mood to exchange peace for withdrawal from Arab territories. After 24 years of applying subtle pressure and persuation on Israel, as Mr. Hurd now suggests, surely it is high time that the world should start contemplating other measures and policies to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Must the international community—but especially the dispossessed and suffering Palestinians—wait another quarter of a century to realise that there is no way to move the Arab-Israeli conflict from stalemate to resolution except by applying forms of pressure on Israel different from those that have been so clearly unsuccessful during the past decades?

Mr. Hurd and other Western leaders may well remember that it was in anticipation of continued employment of double standards by the West that Jordanians and Palestinians and other Arabs insisted on linking the Kuwait and Palestine problems during the Gulf crisis. The West evidently knows that it was not because we supported the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait that we supported Iraq. Rather, our position was based on an experience that Mr. Hurd and the American leaders are now reinforcing through their statements and approach. Few do not know the difference between "liberators" and "catalysts" and between a forced settlement and the induced one. Mr. Hurd would have us believe he is all things to all men. It is difficult to take his and Western leaders at their word in view of what happened in the region over the past years.

Daily Comments on UK, EC Roles in Pressuring Israel

JN0305075491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 May 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The European Community Has a Role in the Peace Process"]

[Text] The accelerating events of the Gulf crisis, which led to the war, proved that Jordan's policy, which aimed at averting the war by seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis; was a brave, sound, and rational policy, stemming from a genuine interest in security, stability, and peace in the region and the world.

Since the outset, Jordan responded logically and objectively to peace efforts and initiatives. It undertook continuous efforts to activate the peace process under the banner of international legitimacy. These added efforts proved how eager Jordan was about not wasting the available peace opportunity and making it a successful one.

Amman has witnessed a flurry of meetings and diplomatic and political activity. European, U.S., and various international delegations visited Amman. This made President Bush acknowledge this active, effective, and significant Jordanian role. This also made the EC respect and appreciate highly this positive and constructive role. This is especially so in view of Jordan's distinguished relations and strong ties with the majority of world's states, including the influential big powers themselves.

Through His Majesty King Husayn's efforts in the international arena, especially in Europe, Jordan mobilized strong and large-scale support for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestine question on the basis of international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338 and in accordance with the principle of "land for peace."

This support is manifest in the statements of EC and Soviet leaders, and sometimes in the statements of President Bush himself.

Undoubtedly, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's current visit to Jordan falls within this framework. It is known that Britain has a history of dealing with the parties to the dispute. It knows that Israel is the stumbling block in the peace process. In fact, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 were formulated by Lord Caradon, the well-known British politician.

Therefore, Britain bears a special responsibility and should play a greater role to impose international legitimacy on Israel and to make it comply, especially since Britain has special and distinguished relations with the United States, and the U.S. Administration listens to the British Government.

The Palestinians and the Arabs have responded to Baker's initiative. Israel under Shamir, Sharon, and Levi worked to abort this initiative. Consequently, the peace process is now inactive and the opportunity for settlement now available after the Gulf war is about to be wasted. This means a return to the no-peace-no-war state, a harbinger of possible new security crises and new wars.

If the U.S. Administration and the EC fail to put strong and sufficient pressure on Israel to force it to accept international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace, then any talk by them about a peaceful settlement and any effort and any move to achieve such a settlement will be useless and will result in nothing significant. Therefore, we believe that the EC has an important role and bears a major responsibility toward the success of the peace process. The Palestinians and the Arabs work from this understanding in their determination to attend the "peace conference."

U.S. Seen 'Moving Away' From Resolutions 242, 338

JN0605103491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 May 91 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "In the Search for Peace..!"]

[Text] Our nation will realize before long that its desire for a just, comprehensive peace will not be met by a similar desire from the West. Our nation will also realize that the special relationship between the Zionist entity and the camp that is hostile to our homeland does not allow such a peace or the arbitration by international legitimacy with regard to the Palestine question.

Hence our conviction, which is very close to certainty, that Western efforts, particularly U.S. efforts, will be no different this time from other times, despite the fine words about the new world order and about restoring UN prestige and despite the American assertion that there will be no bargaining over or leniency toward the resolutions of this international body. The observer of U.S. efforts will easily realize that they are moving intentionally away one step after another from Resolutions 242 and 338, which were passed by the Security Council, adopted by all the permanent members, and accepted by the parties to the conflict. And this interrelating and intersecting talk about a regional conference, regional meeting, international conference, and international meeting aims at gaining time and turning the Gulf crisis, the Mongol aggression against Iraq, and all the sugarcoated promises into mere files in the archives. And the objective is to cool people's anger and calm their souls so that the Zionist war machine can resume its blows here and there. This time, the Arabs will find nobody to condemn and denounce this or to stand by them given the conditions in Moscow and Beijing.

While the Arabs continue to express their desire for a comprehensive, just peace, deal with every political move in this direction, and reiterate their concern for international legitimacy, its decisions, and principles, the Zionist enemy finds nothing to prevent it from rejecting everything, escalating its terrorism against the Palestinian Arab people, and continuing its policy of building settlements with the U.S. money that poured in generously before, during, and after, the Gulf crisis.

There is occupied Arab Syrian territory that must return to its people; there is occupied Lebanese territory that must return to its people; and there is occupied Palestinian territory that must return to its Palestinian people and the Palestinian people must return to their territory. This is called for by the facts, international resolutions, the five permanent members, and the whole international community, except the Zionist entity. The United States is the only one that can put an end to this exception. It can do so if it really wants to and if it wants to affirm its true concern for international legitimacy. Anything else amounts to nothing more than trips on jet planes, visits to capitals, and continuous talks, which we fear will end with one result—namely; the announcement that the U.S. Administration is studying the results of these trips, visits, and talks for it to decide later whether it will resume its moves.

This always happens and ends with nothing. Meanwhile, the Zionist enemy continues its occupation, terrorism, and settlements before the eyes and ears of the world and with the new billions in American money it acquired in the war against Iraq.

Palestinian Role in Any Negotiations Emphasized

JN0505135391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 May 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Palestinian Coordination Is a Pressing National and Pan-Arab Necessity"]

[Text] If one takes into account President Bush's recent pledges to continue peace efforts and remove obstacles, then one can conclude that there is a new U.S. move under way, and that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker might embark on a fourth tour of the region.

Through the Palestinian delegation's visit to Jordan and its negotiations with the prime minister, it becomes clear that there is a Jordanian and Palestinian awareness of the need to build a joint position, and speak to Baker in a one language that stresses the determination to adhere to international legitimacy and the principle of "withdrawal for peace," and that it is impossible to convene a "conference" for peace without the equivalent Palestinian representation.

It is clear that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides are fully convinced of the need to continue coordination, proceeding from the the special distinct relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Despite Israeli and perhaps U.S. attempts to ignore the PLO—the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative—Jordan was keen in talks with Baker during his three tours to stress the importance of Palestinian representation in any "conference" for peace, whether regional or international. Moreover, Jordan played a significant and effective role in pooling European, Soviet, and Chinese support for this sincere and faithful stance.

Jordan has spared no efforts to consolidate the convictions of all parties concerned with the conflict on the need for Palestinian participation in any upcoming peace process. Hence, Jordan has expressed its convictions on the independence of Palestinian representation in word and deed, and sought to impress it on all parties to the conflict, thereby making use of its significant, effective role on the Arab and international arenas. This has encouraged the PLO to continue coordinating with Jordan to reach joint decisions and positions on settlement efforts and U.S. or others' ideas, proposals, and initiatives in the present and future based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 242, 338, and 181.

It is known that Palestinians and Arabs have responded to the U.S. move and have expressed an undestanding of the U.S. proposals, especially after President Bush stressed that any settlement in the region must be based on the principle of "withdrawal for peace."

If Baker's three tours foundered on the rocks of Israeli intransigence and did not bear encouraging results, then the responsibility falls in the first place on the U.S. Administration, which up to this point did not pressure Israel or force it to abide by international legitimacy.

If Baker does not come up with a new, firm position in his fourth tour to smooth the intransigent Israeli position, then his new efforts will follow their predecessors to a dead end.

U.S. Embassy Request To Close Bank Rejected

JN0505113991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 May 91 p 2

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Amman has tried to pressure the Central Bank to close the Amman branches of the al-Rafidayn Bank because of the possibility it undertook international transactions on behalf of Iraq.

The Central Bank replied that the al-Rafidayn Bank branches are Jordanian banks operating according to Jordanian law and are supervised by the Central Bank and that they have not violated Jordanian law.

This came in the May edition of the Jordanian Economy bulletin issued in English by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik's office.

U.S. Navy Still Intercepting al-'Aqabah-Bound Ships

JN0405102791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 May 91 p 3

[By 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Despite assurances from Secretary of State Baker during his latest meeting with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri in al-'Aqabah, U.S. warships in the Red Sea's Tiran Straits continue to act tough, intercepting commercial ships bound for al-'Aqabah and loaded with imports for Jordan.

Informed sources told AL-RAY yesterday that the U.S. Navy changed the course of two commercial ships, one of which was carrying 900 tonnes of foodstuffs, on the pretext that it was unable to inspect the goods in the hold because there were closed containers on the deck and unloading the ship in Tiran was not feasible!

Although documents prove that the goods were imported for Jordan, the sources say, the U.S. Navy insisted on returning the ships to the port of Suez. The 25 containers were off-loaded there and the ship returned to Tiran Straits so that the U.S. Navy could inspect the hold and allow the ship to continue the journey to al-'Aqabah.

The sources stressed to AL-RA'Y that the losses resulting from these delays, which are repeated for every al-'Aqabah-bound ship, amount to $80,000 for each ship, all adding to Jordan's economic burden.

The sources say Jordan now needs additional ships to transport the containers that the ships have left in Suez to the port of al-'Aqabah, which raises the cost of goods and, consequently, their pricesto the consumer, and also slows the movement to and from the port.

The "Hwato" [name as published], which was subjected to the aforementioned measures, finally arrived in al-'Aqabah after midnight on Thursday; it was scheduled to arrive 10 days ago.

The sources say the U.S. Navy is now intercepting and taking similar measures against another ship.

Foreign shipping lines transporting imported goods from Europe to Jordan are waiting for the next U.S. Navy measures against their ships to decide whether or not to plan future shipments!

Indeed, they have already canceled a number of shipments, as the U.S. Navy measures have caused them heavy losses.

Official sources at the Foreign Ministry told AL-RA'Y yesterday that the Jordanian Government is holding contacts at the highest level to make sure promises are honored to end this tiresome game.

The sources said that the ministry sent a memorandum to Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations asking him to discuss the issue with the Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

It also sent an urgent memorandum to our ambassador in Washington to follow up the matter with the U.S. State Department in an attempt to reach a solution. The sources elaborated on the extent of the anxiety felt by the Jordanian shipping sector and its agents as a result of these measures, which inflict losses and cause disruption in the sector and, consequently, affect the currently expanding Jordanian economy. The sources expect a quick reply from the U.S. State Department explaining these practices. They said the reply, however, is not likely to include a final solution to the problem.

Columnist Rejects U.S. 'Interference,' 'Piracy'

JN0605082591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
6 May 91 p 4

["Just a Word" column by Ahmad al-Dabbas: "The Response to U.S. Hostility"]

[Text] The attempt by the U.S. Embassy in Amman to pressure the Central Bank to close al-Rafidayn Bank branches in Jordan on the pretext that the bank might be undertaking international transactions for Iraq is part of the continued U.S. attempts to harass and pressure

Jordan by all means because of this homeland's principled stand on the nation's issues.

This attempt is interference in Jordan's internal affairs, since the embassy is trying to dictate what it wants and what suits hostile U.S. interests, especially since the al-Rafidayn Bank branches in Jordan are Jordanian banks in view of their licenses, commitment to Jordanian law, and because they operate under the supervision of the Central Bank.

This attempt by the U.S. Embassy falls within the framework of the rejected U.S. approach, which contravenes the UN Security Council resolutions. It is aimed at directly punishing this country because of its clear and firm support for the brethren in Iraq.

Within this hostile U.S. course, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps crews continue their acts of piracy and extortion by intercepting ships loaded with commodities imported for Jordan and heading for the port of al-'Aqabah. The U.S. Navy and Marines are chasing these ships on the high seas and in territorial waters, inspecting and scrutinizing the commodities on board, and forcing some ships to change direction and unload their cargoes at ports not included in the ships' itinerary in order to more freely check the ships. This is contrary to all laws and charters and exceeds the bounds of the UN Security Council resolutions that imposed the blockade on Iraq.

These U.S. acts of piracy and extortion harm the Jordanian economy, inflict heavy losses on exporters and sea carriers, and put additional burdens on the Jordanian consumer, who cannot tolerate additional burdens.

Things are becoming intolerable and appeals are useless. A move on official and other levels are required to expose these hostile U.S. practices that violate international law. Popular and economic figures and the sea transport sector must move through regional and international organizations to urge them to take practical steps to make the United States abandon its hostile stand and spare the people of this Arab country the evils and harm caused by its schemes.

These U.S. practices constitute an exposed hostile and flagrant action against this country. It must not be overlooked. Perhaps a spontaneous move by citizens to form committees which call for boycotting U.S. commodities and ceasing to deal with U.S. commodities and interests might constitute a practical popular response to this hostile stand against our country, people, and nation.

Government Urged To Protest U.S. 'Bullying'

JN0505130891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 May 91 p 24

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Continuation of the Naval Blockade!!]

[Text] The government should now come out of its shell and deal differently with the forces of the U.S.-Atlantic naval blockade in the Gulf of 'Aqabah. The advice given by smart government officials—the most recent being to address a memo to the U.S. State Department on the oil issue—has come to no avail, especially since talking to Baker has drawn a blank.

Since the beginning of the blockade, we have repeatedly said that we should go to the Security Council and say: The U.S.-Atlantic navy is besieging us because of our political stance. We should also claim reparations for damage. This is because the Security Council resolutions do not authorize others to besiege us, even if we were re-exporting food and medicine to Iraq. We have also said that we should go the International Court of Justice and file a complaint against the U.S. Administration and its European allies and claim every Jordanian shipment that was unloaded at Egyptian and Saudi ports and sold at auction. We should also demand compensation for the surcharge of shipping that was caused by the delay imposed by U.S. and Atlantic warships on Jordanian imports. Moreover, we should claim compensation for the harm done because maritime transport companies have failed to reach al-'Aqabah port.

We should not freely accept seeing Jordanian national interests subjected to this U.S.-Atlantic bullying, nor should we remain silent about it. For, we have not done anything disgraceful in the eyes of our nation or the world to mitigate disgrace by remaining silent, patient, and tolerant. If Washington, Tel Aviv, and Riyadh are trying to punish us for our position on the imperialist, barbaric invasion of Iraq and the Gulf countries, then we must stress our honorable position and repeat it every day. For all that we said actually happened and what they said was false. Is this the Kuwait for whose liberation the Arab nation was looted? And is the legitimacy that is killing, torturing, and arresting thousands of Arabs in the schools of Kuwait the same legitimacy for which the Americans and Atlanticists are willing to besiege us?

This U.S.-Atlantic bullying must stop at once. The first step that our government can take is to decide to reject the bullying, to lodge a clear complaint with the Security Council, and to go to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, despite our previous knowledge that the Security Council is no more than a rubber stamp, and that the United States does not heed the verdicts of this Court. However, terrorism and humiliation should not be accepted, especially since the terrorism and humiliation are not against any particular individual but are against a nation and a people as a whole.

They want to punish us for our political stance, and they want us to feel disgrace and humiliation because we took this stance. Therefore, we must expose their savage, imperialist aggression, and let them feel disgrace and humiliation because they committed this aggression. Let us begin with the blockade of the Gulf of 'Aqabah and the closure of the Saudi border!!

Premier Meets With Iraqi Trade Minister

JN0205122591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office at the Prime Ministry today Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade in fraternal Iraq. Attending were Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of trade and industry, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Arab region and the appropriate means for realizing Arab solidarity and the supreme pan-Arab interests. They also reviewed means of developing fraternal relations between Jordan and Iraq, especially in the scope of how Jordan can contribute toward meeting Iraq's import needs such as foodstuffs, medicines, and other humanitarian needs, within the framework stipulated by the UN Security Council.

Dr. Fariz met this morning with Dr. Salih to discuss the details of the above-mentioned bilateral cooperation.

Birri Threatens Israel With 'Suicide Operations'

NC0305135091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Minister of State Nabih Birri has warned Israel against maintaining its presence in southern Lebanon. In a statement to the United Arab Emirates newspaper GULF NEWS, he threatened to launch suicide operations against Israel in southern Lebanon if it refuses to withdraw. He stressed that such operations will be supported by all Lebanese. Birri emphasized the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Israeli Forces Move Into Jazzin, Kafr Huna

NC0405124591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have fortified their positions in the south and moved to new ones in the Jazzin and Kafr Huna areas. According to security sources, an Israeli force passed through Kafr Huna and was stationed at a position for Lahd forces in Kafr Falus. Lahd forces that were in Kafr Falus left that town and took position in Kafr Huna.

Meanwhile, Yusuf Sa'd from Bint Jubayl was killed by the occupation forces and their agents when he resisted them as they tried to take his son to serve in Lahd militia as part of the involuntary conscription measures. The Bint Jubayl inhabitants have called on the government, humanitarian organizations, and nationalist parties to expose the crimes of the occupation and work for the release of those held in the prisons of the occupation forces, particularly in al-Khiyam prison.

Army, Palestinians Clash in Tyre 5 May

NC0605055391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] A clash took place near the al-Buss camp in Tyre last night between a Lebanese Army patrol and Palestinian fighters. Machine guns, rockets, and mortars were used in the clash. AFP, which reported the news, quoted a security source as saying that the clash lasted for 20 minutes. There is no word on the number of casualties because the acute tension in the area has prevented further reporting.

Captured Commandos Brought Before Military Court

NC0305144091 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 3 May 91

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 3 (AFP)—Six members of a Palestinian commando unit arrested by the Lebanese Army for trying to launch an anti-Israeli attack have been brought before a military court, officials said Friday.

It was the first such measure undertaken by authorities for eight years, since the Lebanese Army arrested Lebanese and Palestinian militants who had tried to mount anti-Israel attacks in 1982 and 1983 at the height of Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

The report came a day after Israeli helicopters firing missiles attacked a Palestinian commando base in the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp in south Lebanon injuring two children and a woman.

The six men—members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the main components of the Palestine Liberation Organization—had been arrested on April 18 for illegally transporting arms, the officials said.

They were caught in the village of Qilya on the edge of Israel's self-declared security zone as they attempted to enter the area to conduct their operation.

The PFLP regularly claims anti-Israeli attacks from south Lebanon but the organization refused to comment when asked to do so by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah: Conditions Encourage Hostage Issue

NC0605070791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that regional conditions encourage the establishment of peace in Lebanon after 16 years of war. He added that the circumstances that incited the outbreak of civil war in Lebanon, which were concentrated by international and regional interests, no longer exist today.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates-based newspaper GULF NEWS, 'Allamah Fadlallah voiced support for the militia disarming process. He noted, however, that resistance weapons must remain as long as occupation troops are in the occupied border zone.

Regarding the hostage issue, his eminence said that current conditions encourage a settlement of the issue. He noted that he does not favor the release of the hostages in Lebanon without a similar release of the Lebanese and Palestinians detained in the occupied territories.

Karami Express 'Irritation' With Wave of Strikes

NC0605064791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has expressed his irritation with the current wave of strikes. He said that these strikes are a sham and shameful under the circumstances because they obstruct the Lebanese peace process. In a statement to the newspaper AL-DIYAR, Karami said that certain forces are instigating the strikes in order to confront the government, a government bent on addressing the security situation after succeeding in taking a large step toward securing the Jabal Lubnan area.

Karami expressed his apprehension about the militias' delay in handing over their weapons to the Lebanese Army on schedule. He said that the Army has not yet received any of the militias personal weapons, and the arms it has received [as heard] to date are unfit for use. He added that some militias destroyed the weapons that should have been handed over to the state. He denied a report that he has refused to meet with Minister Walid Junblatt.

Ba'th Party Official Receives WPK Delegation

JN0405194591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, today received a delegation from the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee. Also attending were Mut'ib Shinan, Ba'th Party National Command member, and the DPRK ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed the depth of cooperation and friendship between the Ba'th Party and the WPK. They also discussed the transformations and changes in the world and their multifaceted impact on Third World peoples and countries.

Comrade al-Ahmar presented a review of the political developments in the Arab region, particularly after the Gulf War and its negative effects on Iraq, Kuwait, and the entire region.

He also talked about the current contacts and discussions concerning peace and finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question on the basis of international legitimacy's resolutions. He referred to Syria's position and its efforts and concern toward rendering success to the sincere efforts to find a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace that will return the occupied Arab territories and restore the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

Al-Ahmar said: Just as in the past, Israel still constitutes the obstacle to the achievement of the desired peace. Israel pursues the policy of expansionism at the expense of the Arab territory. It also refuses to submit to the UN resolutions.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the need for a world position that would deter aggression, limit expansionism, and oblige everyone to implement the international resolutions.

Comrade al-Ahmar voiced the Ba'th Party's support for Korea's struggle to unite the Korean homeland through peaceful means.

On his part, Comrade Choe expressed his party's and country's praise of the achievements scored in the Syrian Arab Republic. He also expressed his country's support for Syria's struggle and the legitimate Arab rights. He said: We will work together within the international framework to serve the objectives of our countries and peoples.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN0505132791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Choe Tae-pok, candidate memer of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, and his delegation at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by DPRK Ambassador in Damascus Pak Mun-song. Mr. Choe delivered to the president a message from President Kim Il-song and an invitation to visit the DPRK. The president conveyed through the guest a reply message and accepted the invitation to visit Korea, promising to take it up at the right time. The talks dealt with the international situation and the Middle East issue.

Khaddam Interviewed on Militias, Resistance

NC0405183291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 May 91

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] Dr. George Sa'adah, Lebanese minister of telecommunications and post and Phalangist Party leader, has spent the second day of his visit to Syria in Damascus. He arrived in Damascus via al-Biqa', in response to an invitation from his Syrian counterpart Murad Quwatli. They met this morning in the presence of senior officials of the two ministries. At noon today Dr. Sa'adah met with Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Since 1650 Beirut time, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has been meeting at his house with Minister Sa'adah, Lebanese Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul, and Voice of Lebanon General Manager Simon al-Khazin. Before the end of the meeting, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam gave us a lengthy interview. Commenting on the atmosphere of his two days of meetings with Ministers Sa'adah and Dallul, he said:

[Begin recording] [Khaddam] This is the second meeting. During the first meeting, we discussed the achievements made in implementing the National Accord charter, what has been done in this regard, and what should be done. We agreed that what has been accomplished can be considered an important and major turn in the march of peace in Lebanon. A considerable distance has been traveled on the road to closing the file of the Lebanese crisis. As for what we will discuss now, the discussion is yet to start.

[Correspondent] There are urgent topics being addressed regarding the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. In light of what has been implemented in terms of the clauses of this accord, could you shed some light on what course will be followed in the future?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, the al-Ta'if accord is indivisible. A good distance has been traveled regarding this accord, but there are basic issues that must be addressed before we can say that the aspirations of the Lebanese, the Arabs, and Lebanon's non-Arab friends and lovers have been fulfilled. We hope that everyone,

both in the regime and outside it, will cooperate in implementing what remains to be implemented under the al-Ta'if accord. We believe that everyone wants to bring this chapter to an end, and we do not see anything preventing the implementation of the remaining clauses of the al-Ta'if accord.

[Correspondent] The Lebanese Army has begun to extend its authority in the Lebanese territories, in accordance with the part that deals with security within the al-Ta'if accord. You have expressed readiness to facilitate this mission on more than one occasion. Are Syrian troops taking any measures to help the Lebanese state consolidate its authority using its own resources?

[Khaddam] We have declared clearly on various occasions that Syria is committed to the al-Ta'if accord and that it will respond to any request by the Lebanese Government for assistance in extending its authority throughout the Lebanese territories, naturally as far as Syria's resources permit. So far, we did all that we have been asked to do through the existing cooperation between the two countries and two governments.

[Correspondent] Concerning the Palestinian weapons, the Lebanese militias have handed over their weapons. As part of the contacts under way in this respect, you met with Minister Dallul and mediator Muhsin Ibrahim this morning to discuss the fate of the Palestinian weapons. Is there anything new about this or about the implementation of UN Resolution 425 in the south?

[Khaddam] We believe that the al-Ta'if accord, which is now called the national charter, is binding and must be observed by everyone, both Lebanese and non-Lebanese. We hope that the reports that the militias have handed over all their weapons are accurate, because we still have doubts that such reports are completely accurate. Some steps were taken, and they are major and important steps that respond to the Lebanese public's desires regarding the handover of weapons. As you know, considerable quantities of weapons remain in the hands of various parties. We call upon and urge these parties not to keep any weapons. Weapons do not give them guarantees. Weapons no longer provide gurantees for anyone in Lebanon. Their gurantees are peace, security, and efforts to rebuild the state and tackle the psychological and physical consequences of the war. As for the Palestinian weapons, the al-Ta'if accord, as I said earlier, applies to everyone. What I have heard from brother Muhsin Ibrahim and what has been announced by the brother Palestinians call for optimism. North of al-Awwali [River], I believe that the Palestinian organizations have responded to the Lebanese Government's decision more positively than some of the Lebanese factions. According to our information, the Palestinian organizations north of al-Litani [River] have either pulled out or handed over their weapons according to the plan laid down by the Lebanese Government. Brother Muhsin Dallul was informed today by these factions that the weapons they still have will be withdrawn in the near future.

As for the south, we hope that Brother Muhsin Ibrahim will succeed in his mission. We encouraged him to continue and to initiate dialogue and discussion between the brother Palestinians and the brothers in the Lebanese Government. One thing should be taken into consideration: the Israeli occupation. As we have said to a number of foreign countries, it is inconceivable and illogical to tell the Lebanese or the Palestinian national organizations to surrender their weapons while Lahd [South Lebanese Army] troops are close by in Kafr Falus and Israel is occupying the border zone. We believe that the implementation of UN Resolution 425 and the seriousness in implementing or seeking the implementation of this resolution will accelerate the elimination of all the obstacles preventing the Lebanese Government from collecting all the weapons in the south and extending its full authority and control on every inch of the Lebanese territories. As long as there is occupation, the resistance is legitimate. This matter is mentioned in the al-Ta'if accord—the national accord—which was endorsed by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, as well as in the Lebanese Cabinet statement. Naturally, we, the Lebanese state, and some Arab brothers are holding contacts to tackle this matter, and we hope that in the end we will reach results that will please the Lebanese people. There is no doubt that the Israeli occupation is one of the key obstacles to closing the file of the Lebanese civil war once and for all.

[Correspondent] You said you have suspicions that certain parties are still keeping their weapons. What makes you suspicious?

[Khaddam] The situation does. What has been handed over, as we read in Lebanese media, is far below what we know that the various sides have. I am not speaking about any single party; I am speaking about all of them.

[Correspondent] Some differentiate between the arms owned by the Lebanese Army and the weapons owned by the militias or brought in from outside sources. Do you think that such differentiation is valid in light of the continued presence of Palestinian weapons on Lebanese soil? There are also others, such as the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

[Khaddam] The issue of the weapons owned by the Lebanese sides is one that concerns the Lebanese state and not the militias. None of the Lebanese sides has the right to justify its holding on to weapons by saying that others have weapons. Everyone has to meet his obligations. When all have met their obligations, cooperated, and adopted the same stand, no one will be able to justify to the Leabanese Government or people holding on to as little as one bullet.

Some people say: We have given the Lebanese Army what belongs to it but will not give it what does not belong to it. This is a weak argument. The government plan is clear; the state's decision is clear; and the national Constitution is clear. Arms, like anything else, tempt people who own them to use them.

If everyone is serious—and we hope and believe that everyone is—then no one should hesitate. They should either hand over these weapons or at least get these weapons outside Lebanon. Handing over part of the weapons and saying that we have handed the army what belongs to the army... Of course, we are confident that the Lebanese Army is capable, at any moment, of disarming all and everyone, but we do not wish for matters to reach that stage because Lebanon has already paid dearly for the intransigence of some, and sometimes of all, of its parties, and for the lack of confidence in the homeland and the state.

Unless all of the people show trust in the homeland and the state, they will always be suspicious and be the subject of suspicion. This will not help matters and will not help Lebanon find the course that we, and they, wish for this country.

Therefore, I can say that all sides still possess abundant quantities of weapons. What has been accomplished is extremely important; the army deployment is important, acknowledging the state's authority is important, and accepting the state's authority is also important. Anything else would be an obstacle, but the state, I believe, is capable of overcoming obstacles with the public's cooperation.

We do believe that if the weather had been suitable and if there had been no rain, all Lebanese would have gone into the streets to welcome the army in the areas of deployment, whether in al-Shuf, Kasrawan, or Jubayl. Everyone wants the state now, and therefore it behooves everyone to consider that this state belongs to all of the Lebanese. If all Lebanese proceed from this perspective, all excuses will collapse.

[Correspondent] Some people say that Syria gave guarantees to some Lebanese sides in order to achieve a political solution and, consequently, to establish the current situation. Can you define the form of such guarantees?

[Khaddam] We held talks with all sides. We encouraged them to work with the Lebanese Government in implementing the national accord charter, handing over their weapons, and rallying under the state's banner. We told them—whether those who had and continue to have relations with Syria, or those who are opposed to us—that we consider everyone as brothers, that we want to cooperate with them, and that we should all cooperate with the Lebanese state in regaining its security, peace, and stability. We also told them that Syria will support the precise and full implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. We further made it clear to them that if any side attempts to violate this commitment, Syria will support the others against this side. If this side happens to be Syria's ally and friend, but it obstructs the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord or tries to defame another side which is now taking part in the national accord process and in this government, Syria will support the side that has been defamed. I think my words are clear and contain all guarantees. We support all the Lebanese.

Under the national accord, Syria does not distinguish between this or that side in Lebanon. We have turned the page of the past. This is natural and it is our national and pan-Arab duty. The salvation of Lebanon and the return of peace to Lebanon is our goal and is more important than all the old grudges and feuds.

[Correspondent] The national accord agreement stipulates that the state will impose its authority all over Lebanon. You justified the resistance south of al-Awwali. How do you explain this?

[Khaddam] This is clear. The cabinet statement and the al- Ta'if charter reiterated support for the resistance and for the liberation of the south as long as the Israeli occupation continues and as long as Israel does not implement Resolution 425 and does not withdraw. This would be a legitimate duty that should be carried out by all Lebanese, Muslims and Christians, to wage resistance for the sake of liberating their occupied land. We must distinguish between the resistance for liberation and the weapons used against the state on the one hand, and for keeping the situation on the other, whether such weapons are in Lebanon's south, north, east, or west. [end recording]

Afghanistan

Fundamentalist Leader Quits Mujahidin Government

BK0505092491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 5 (AFP)—Yunis Khalis, a fundamentalist leader of the Afghan resistance government based here, said Sunday he was quitting the cabinet, accusing two of his colleagues of hatching conspiracies with Kabul and Moscow.

Talking to reporters here, Mr. Khalis, interior minister and chief of his own Hezb-e-Eslami faction, said he had submitted his resignation with the prime minister, Rasul Sayyaf, on Saturday. But his party will remain within the fold of the Pakistan-based mujahidin government, he said.

He alleged that two of his colleagues were disloyal to the mujahidin.

Seyed Ahmed Gaylani, the chief justice, recently held a meeting in Geneva with Afghan President Najibullah, while Burhanuddin Rabbani, reconstruction minister, met with the Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Viktor P. Yakunin, he said.

"I have felt that there are conspiracies being hatched at the government's level," Mr. Khalis said. "Superpowers are trying to create a pseudo-Islamic government through mujahidin," he added.

Mr. Khalis, 70, is the second prominent mujahidin leader to quit the rebel government. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar resigned in August 1990 as foreign minister. Mr. Khalis' resignation underscores inherent frictions among the Sunni factions of the resistance government, which was formed in February 1989 after the Soviets completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

"The AIG (Afghan Interim Government) has failed to give any programme or any concrete planning," he said.

Another member of the cabinet, Najibullah Lafraie, information minister in the rebel government, commented later that he hoped Mr. Khalis' resignation was "only a kind of pressure" to improve the political setup of the mujahidin after their military victory in Khowst on March 31.

Hikmatyar, Rabbani 'Recently' Met Al-Qadhdhafi

BK0605003791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP)—Two top Afghan mujahidin leaders held a meeting recently with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli and discussed Afghanistan, Palestine and other issues, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said Sunday.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chief of the Hezb-e-Eslami faction and Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Jamiat-e-Eslami, visited Libya at the invitation of the Libyan Islamic Call Society (ICS), ANA said.

The agency gave no details of the meeting, which observers here viewed as an attempt by the mujahidin leaders to raise funds for their struggle against the Moscow-backed Kabul regime.

Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid al-Ghabid was also present at the meeting, ANA said.

Earlier, Mr. Hikmatyar and Mr. Rabbani attended a three-day seminar on the "imposition of sharia (Islamic code)," held in Khartoum, where they also met with 'Umar al-Bashir, president and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Sudan, it said.

More Cooperation Talks With Russian Province

LD0505025891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Engineer Muhammad Ghofran, minister of Agriculture and land reform, met in his office this morning the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic delegation from Altay Province, headed by the vice chairman of its Executive Committee, which had come to Kabul at the invitation of the Department of Direct Cooperation of the Council of Ministers. The aim of the visit is the expansion and consolidation of economic and commercial relations, and for holding a series of talks with relevant Afghan organs on reciprocally advantageous cooperation. Present at this meeting were the leadership delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, the head of the foreign relations section of the Direct Cooperation Department of the Council of Ministers, as well as the envoy of the USSR Embassy in Kabul. Talks were held on subjects of mutual interest in the areas of agriculture and cattle-breeding.

[Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto at 1530 GMT on 4 May in another report adds that the Russian delegation also met with Afghan Construction Minister Faqir Muhammad Nekzad on 4 May. "During the meeting, which was also attended by the economic consul of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, talks were conducted on the expansion of technical cooperation for setting up joint Afghan-Soviet construction companies, supplying construction spare parts, and a series of other issues."]

Najibullah Addresses Watan Party Activists

LD0405175291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and chairman of the Watan Party, took part today in a meting of Watan Party activists of Kabul city and province councils. He spoke on the political and military situation in the country, the gains of the Armed Forces,

and the policy of national reconciliation, outlining the duties of the Watan Party's members.

BAKHTAR reported that the meeting began after the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran by Ostad Qari Barakatollah Salim. Farid Ahmad Mazdak, member of the Executive Board of the Central Council and deputy chairman of the Watan Party, then asked esteemed Najibullah to deliver his instructive speech.

In his detailed speech on the policy of national reconciliation, esteemed Najibullah said:

The course of the policy of national reconciliation, as an official policy of the party and government, will not be halted even for a minute, and we will not be negligent in the implementation of this policy. After all, this policy reflects the wishes of millions of persecuted Afghans inside and outside Afghanistan. The policy of national reconciliation is irreversible because the people are its dynamic force—the people who in the final analysis determine the fate of every political system.

Addressing the local armed commanders, formations, and organizations, as well as sensible and propeace political (?forces), esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and chairman of the Watan Party, said: Peace will definitely come to our beloved country; however, the continuation of war every day and every hour costs the lives of a large number of our compatriots and their national wealth. Let us come and not waste time, and solve with courage our problems and differences by talks and direct dialogue in accordance with the instructions of the pure Islam religion and by following the accepted traditions of our ancestors. The will of Almighty God and the wishes of millions of our war-stricken compatriots are vested in this task. Why should Afghans not be able to fina a solution for their problems. The Afghans have always had this potential to act in unity at difficult times and undoubtedly they still have this potential.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that a number of the Watan Party's cadres and activitists of Kabul city and province councils presented their proposals and suggestions; esteemed Najibullah then gave explanations.

The meeting was also attended by members of the Executive Board of the Central Council and deputy chairmen of the Watan Party.

Two New Members Join Constitution Council

LD3004181191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Press Office of the Presidency has reported to BAKHTAR that in accordance with a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Hadi Khalilzai, first deputy attorney general; and Pohand [academic title] 'Abdul 'Aziz, dean of the faculty of studies and research of Islamic science, have been appointed members of the constitution council in accordance with Article 125 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Parliament Holds First Meeting After Cyclone

BK0305140091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 3 May 91

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, May 3 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Parliament met for the first time Friday since a killer cyclone struck the country as the death toll climbed over the 92,000 mark, officials said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia told parliament that the loss of life and damage and destruction to property in Monday's [29 April] cyclone was extensive.

"Damage was so colossal that it was not possible on the part of the government to face the situation alone," she said, as leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina Wajed alleged that food and immediate relief were yet to reach some of the distressed areas.

A government minister Thursday [2 May] predicted the toll could surpass 100,000 and the independent DHAKA DAILY Friday put the figure at 300,000.

Red Crescent officials here, gathering reports from the southeastern coast and islands, the worst hit areas, said the toll as of 1100 GMT Friday stood at 92,256 and that more reports were coming in.

The cyclone, the worst in decades, packed winds of 235 kilometers per hour (145 mph), and lashed almost the entire 650 kilometer (403 mile) Bangladesh coastline as well as several islands.

Communication Minister Oli Ahmed, now in the southeastern port district of Chittagong, told Red Crescent officials Friday that more than 57,000 people were killed in the district alone, 55,000 of them on the nearby islands of Sandwip and Banskhali and some 500 in the port city itself.

Red Crescent officials said local administrations along with troops were continuing rescue operations in the battered areas where some five million survivors were fighting for life.

Special prayers were offered nationwide Friday for the victims. The government has declared Saturday a national day of mourning.

The main prayer was held at downtown Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, while minority Christian, Hindu and Buddhist communities offered prayers for the dead.

Bangladeshi analysts said Friday that massive external help and rapid mobilisation of internal resources were needed to recover the nearly one billion dollar loss caused to the country's economy by the cyclone.

"The magnitude of Monday's cyclone is so great that I think we will need massive help from friendly countries and donor agencies as well as mobilise internal resources at a hurricane speed," Dhaka University Economist Sadul Reza said.

The country's main port, Chittagong, was closed indefinitely as at least eight ships including two belonging to the Bangladesh Navy were damaged or sunk there and the jetty was badly damaged by high-velocity winds and a tidal surge.

"Unless foreign help was immediately available to clear the port and approaching channels, no ship could reach Chittagong with relief," State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan said.

Officials said Chittagong Airport, badly damaged by the cyclone and tidal waves, resumed limited operations Friday after some emergency repairs.

The immediate consolation for Begum Zia's government was the commitment by Japan, the European Community, Britain, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the United States, Bhutan and India of several million dollars worth of emergency aid.

Two cargo planes carrying relief goods from Saudi Arabia were the first to arrive in Dhaka Thursday. India said its relief offer included three helicopters.

Mr. Khan Thursday appealed for 20 helicopters to ferry immediate relief and two billion taka (55.5 million dollars) in financial aid from abroad.

Begum Zia ordered strict official austerity measures including a ban on official feasts.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is due here Sunday on a one-day visit to express his country's sympathy.

Lyonpa Tobgyel, a special envoy of Bhutanese King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk is also due Sunday on a similar mission.

Deaths, Property Damage Assesed

BK0405165191 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this evening, the foreign secretary said the country now requires emergency assistance of food and medicines and clothing for the cyclone victims. Mr. Abul Ahsan said helicopters and shallow boats are urgently needed to dispatch life-saving materials, including dry food and water purifying tablets for the affected people in the (?worst affected) areas. Tube wells are needed for supply of pure drinking water and CI [corrugated iron] sheets for making house for the survivors. International help is also required to restore communication in the affected areas.

About the long-term program, the foreign secretary said reconstruction and infrastructure facilities are urgently needed for Chittagong port which remains partially inoperative following the sinking of two ships [words indistinct]. Long time is also needed for reconstruction and repair of roads, bridges, embankments, oil refinery, storage tanks, and educational institutions badly damaged during the cyclone and tidal bore. According to the preliminary estimates, the foreign secretary said, the death toll in last Monday's cyclone and tidal bore is now risen to over 100,000. The total population affected is 10 million, half of whom have been badly affected. About one million houses have been destroyed.

Government Defends Relief Operations

BK0505161691 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The government in a press release dispelled the possible misgivings and confusion in the minds of the members of the public regarding a news item published in a section of the press under the caption: Want of funds for the relief of the cyclone victims, while 211 crore taka is available in the president's relief fund.

The press release said there was 44.8253 crore takas in the president's relief fund at the time when former President Ershad resigned in the face of mass movement in December last. After the cyclone hit the coastal districts on the 30th of last month, a Cabinet meeting was held under the acting president's chairmanship. The meeting decided to set up a high-powered relief coordination committee with prime minister as chairperson. According to the decision of the committee 5.05 crore takas were released from the president's relief fund in two phases and it was decided if required more money will be handed over the relief committee from the president's relief fund. So, the report of 211 crore taka is left in the president's relief fund is totally baseless.

The press release also repudiated the allegation that there is no coordination among the relief coordination committee, president's relief monitoring cell, and president's relief fund. The allegation that the government had failed to (?meet) the postcyclone situation is not at all true, the press release added. It said relief materials, iuncluding dry food are being sent daily to the affected areas by planes, helicopteras and other naval transportation.

The press release further said the prime minister has called for international aid according to the decision of the meeting of the council of ministers. As a head of the people's representative, it is only natural and just that the prime minister gave the call for international aid. Under the circumstances, there was no need for giving such a call by the president. Rather, it would have been contrary to the international norms and practices and would have created confusion at the international level.

Pakistan's Sharif Arrives To Convey Sympathies

BK0505084091 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, arrived in Dhaka today on a day's visit to Bangladesh to personally convey the sympathy of the government and people of Pakistan to their brethren in this hour of [word indistinct]. He was received at the airport by the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia. Besides having talks with the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, he is expected to visit some of the affected areas. The prime minister has taken with him the consignment of relief goods and life-saving drugs for immediate relief and assistance.

Visits Cyclone-Hit Areas

BK0505143891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who arrived in Dhaka this morning on a day's visit to Bangladesh, left by a helicopter this afternoon to visit the calamity hit areas. He was accompanied by Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The prime minister will try to assess the damage caused by the cyclone and decide how Pakistan could assist Bangladesh in the massive task of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Earlier, Nawaz Sharif was briefed about the loss of life and property at the Dhaka airport. He was told that 125,000 people have been killed in the cyclone, the worst to strike Bangladesh since 1971. These statistics are based on the reports received till yesterday. The cyclone has affected 10 (?districts) inhabitated by 8 million people.

Troops To Travel to Kuwait for Minesweeping

BK0305160491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Dhaka, May 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh has agreed to send a battalion of troops to Kuwait for minesweeping and reconstruction work in the war-ravaged country, reliable sources said here Friday.

"They will go soon, but no time has yet been set," the sources said, adding that the troops would be in the emirate for about a year.

One battalion normally has 600 to 2,500 men.

Seven Bangladeshi military officials have already joined the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait observer mission.

The Dhaka Government backed the Kuwaiti government-in-exile during Iraq's invasion of the tiny oil-rich emirate and sent some 2,300 troops to defend Saudi Arabia.

Some 65,000 expatriate Bangladeshis fled Kuwait and returned home following the invasion. Dhaka has been negotiating with the emirate about the return of Bangladeshi workers to the Gulf.

India

Shekhar Calls for Reconciliatory Spirit on Punjab

BK0405133591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The prime minister says a spirit of reconciliation is needed to solve the Punjab problem. Talking to newspersons informally after the defense investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the militants are having apprehensions following opposition from several quarters to holding talks with them. He said it is unfortunate that nothing has been learned from the past experience. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said some of the major political parties who are not in favor of talks want to keep the crisis alive for their narrow interests.

Shekhar, Gandhi on Punjab Peace Talks, Elections

BK0305032291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Mr. Chandra Shekhar says negotiations with the militants in Punjab will not be discontinued under pressure from anyone. Addressing a series of public meetings in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Janata Party leader asserted that the bullet-for-bullet policy would not be pursued in Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar blamed the Congress-I for the situation in these states and said the party does not now want us to hold talks on the subject. He criticized certain political parties for trying to divide the country in the name of cast, creed, and religion. Defending his efforts to resolve the Punjab crisis by holding discussions with militant groups, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there is nothing wrong in persuading a son of the soil to return to the national mainstream.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, says at no point or time did his party agree to have elections in Punjab. Speaking to newsmen in Jaipur, he said the Congress-I will agree to elections in Punjab only if they could be free and fair.

Shekhar Sees 'Constructive Results'

BK0605041491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Mr. Chandra Shekhar has said that some constructive results have emerged from the talks held with the Punjab militants. Addressing a number of public meetings in Haryana, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the militants have started realizing the usefulness of such a dialogue. Defending the decision to hold talks with the militants, he said it is our duty to bring them into the national mainstream.

Denies 'Secret Deal' With 'Militants'

BK0605093091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Mr. Chandra Shekhar has dismissed as unfounded Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's allegation that he has entered into a secret deal with the Punjab militants for their release. Addressing a series of public meetings in Maharashtra today, he said that he never pleaded or advocated for leniency for those who were indulging in violent acts. He said he is firmly of the opinion that a dialogue or discussion could alone enable to bring the misguided youth into the mainstream.

The Samajwadi Janata Party leader said that the country does not need a stable government only, but a government that strives to keep the nation united. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the country is threatened by internal squabbles and communalism, rather than by external forces. He claimed that his government has sincerely tried to solve many problems, which made it possible to hold elections in Punjab and Assam.

Uttar Pradesh Crowd Stones Shekhar's Motorcade

BK0505034991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1733 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar escaped unhurt after his motorcade was stoned Saturday by a crowd in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

One driver suffered minor head injuries when people attacked the motorcade in Chaubepur, some 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the Uttar Pradesh town of Kanpur, PTI said.

Mr. Shekhar was on a tour of the state, campaigning for his Samajwadi Janata Dal (Socialist People's Party).

The news agency said the incident was connected with a protest by local residents over alleged police "inaction" during an earlier factional clash in the area in which one person was killed.

State Assembly Candidate Killed in Punjab

BK0605041891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] In Punjab, a candidate seeking election to the state assembly and two militants have been killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, Mr. Ajmer Singh, the Akali Dal-Panthic candidate from the Dirba assembly constituency in Sangrur District was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in his village early this morning. It may be recalled that polling in two constituencies in Faridkot District has already been countermanded following the killing of a candidate seeking elections from both places. The spokesman said one militant each was killed in separate encounters in Rupar and Jullundur Districts.

Recent Election Violence Updated

BK0505041791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1724 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 4 (AFP)—Two activists from different parties have died in pre-poll violence, taking the toll up to nine in the last four days, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Saturday.

A Communist Party of India (Marxist) activist was kidnapped and murdered allegedly by Congress (I) Party supporters in Calcutta Saturday, PTI said.

Unidentified assailants shot dead a Congress (I) Party worker and wounded a village headman campaigning for national elections in northern Uttar Pradesh State, PTI said earlier Saturday.

The delayed report of shooting, which took place Thursday near Teliakala crossing, came as Indian caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said he feared possible communal violence during the May 20, 23 and 26 polls.

Should communal violence break out, "the whole electoral atmosphere will be vitiated," Mr. Shekhar told reporters in West Bengal state, where he was campaigning for his Janata Dal (Socialist) Party.

The premier, who earlier this week said the potential for violence in Bihar State was of major concern, singled out the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP or Indian People's Party), which is campaigning on a Hindu-revivalist platform, as among those largely responsible for raising communal issues.

Earlier, PTI reported three election-related murders in Uttar Pradesh's Gazipur District and four in Calcutta since May 1.

Delhi Concerned by Bihar Situation

BK0505044891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The center has expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar in the context of the coming parliamentary elections. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, described as unfortunate disruptions of election campaigns of some political leaders in the state. He remarked that it is up to the state governor or the president to take action in this regard. All India Radio correspondent says that a high-level central team led by the union home secretary, Mr. Raj Bhargava, visited Patna last week and discussed the law and order situation with the chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, and senior state officials.

The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that his party is not in favor of the imposition of president's rule in Bihar. Talking to newsmen in Kanpur, he said such a step will enable the

Janata Dal government in Bihar to have an excuse for losing the elections in the state.

The Bihar unit of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has urged the Election Commission to take effective steps to prevent [polling] booth capturing in the state. In a communication to the chief election commissioner, the party leader, Mr. Jagannath Sarkar, described the steps taken by the Bihar Government as inadequate.

Kashmir Militants Settle Differences After Talks

BK0305014791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1704 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Jammu, India, May 2 (AFP)—Rival Kashmiri militant groups agreed Thursday to bury their differences that had led to public clashes among their supporters in the past fortnight, spokesmen for the groups said.

Leaders of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and the fundamentalist Hizbul Mujahidin agreed to a "negotiated truce" after a marathon 10-hour meeting in the state capital Srinagar, the spokesmen told reporters in separate telephone calls.

The meeting was called after some 42 activists were killed in inter-group clashes in the Kashmir Valley last month.

"The two groups have agreed to cease all hostilities among themselves and work separately to achieve their goal to liberate the Kashmir valley from Indian occupation," the spokesmen added.

The rival groups have called for a general strike Friday across the Kashmir valley to "show their commitment to free the people of the valley from the clutches of India," they said.

The spokesmen alleged that Indian security forces surrounded the building where the meeting was in progress, but were rebuffed after a heavy exchange of fire.

Both groups, along with half a dozen smaller outlawed organisations, are waging an armed guerrilla campaign against Indian rule of Kashmir, the country's only Moslem-majority state.

But while the JKLF favors independence, the Hizbul is seen as favoring union with neighbouring Pakistan.

India and Pakistan, which controls the northern third of the state, have fought two of their three wars since partition in 1947 over Kashmir.

Dubey Gives Pakistan Commission Kidnap Details

BK0305162691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, today conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi the details which suggest that the kidnapping of the two Swedish engineers in Jammu and Kashmir was engineered from across the line of actual control. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that newspapers in Pakistan, Sweden, and Britain have come out with considerable details about the kidnapping.

A press note issued by the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi has, however, denied that the kidnapping of the Swedish engineers was organized from across the line of actual control.

Kidnappers Consider UN Appeal

BK0505050091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Normal life has been paralyzed in Indian-held Kashmir as a result of a general strike called by various organizations of the freedom fighters to display unity and harmony in their ranks and protest Indian repression. Shops and business establishments remain closed in Srinagar and other major cities of the occupied valley. Rallies were reportedly held in Baramula yesterday to pay tribute to those martyred in the struggle for freedom during the past 32 months. The occupying forces are said to have destroyed another mosque school building in the valley.

Meanwhile, the freedom fighters who are holding two Swedish engineers hostage have said they are seriously considering the appeal of the UN secretary general for release of the Swedish engineers. They regret, however, that the United Nations has not been able to persuade India to hold a fair plebiscite in Kashmir according to its earlier pledge. In a statement in Stockholm, the Swedish deputy minister for foreign affairs has stressed the need for an impartial investigation into the atrocities committed against the Kashmiri people.

Nine 'Militants,' 13 Others Killed in Punjab

BK0305161691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] In Punjab, nine militants are among 22 persons killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, four militants were killed in Ferozepore District, two each in Faridkot and Amritsar Districts, and one in Sangrur District in separate encounters with the security forces.

Elsewhere in the state, unidentified gunmen shot dead five persons, including a couple in Gurdaspur District, and two persons each in Sangrur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, and Patiala.

16 'Pak-Trained Militants' Surrender in Kashmir

BK0305161491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, 16 Pak-trained militants, mostly belonging to the outlawed Muslim Janbaaz Force,

have surrendred amid continuing reports of clashes between various militant outfits. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that seven subversives were also apprehended.

Five Arrested

BK0505162091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, three militants have been killed in intergang firing between two militant outfits. In another incident one person was killed and 12 civilian passers-by were injured when militants hurled a grenade and fired on security forces near (Ajarbal) bus stand in Anantnag District.

Security forces arrested five Pak-trained militants and recovered some arms and ammunition during search operations in Srinagar, Pulwama, and Kupwara Districts.

'Unprovoked Firing' by Pakistan Troops Injures 5

BK0505161091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Five Indian soldiers have been injured in the unprovoked firing by the Pakistani troops on the Indian positions in Keran sector of northern Kashmir.

An official spokesman in New Delhi said that the Pakistani shelling, which began on Thursday [2 May] is continuing intermittently. The spokesman said India has taken up the matter with Islamabad and urged it to stop such provocative actions.

Iran

Reportage on Visit by French Foreign Minister

Notes Aims of Visit

LD0305134791 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived here Friday afternoon on a three-day official visit and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

On the objective of his visit to the Islamic Republic, the French minister told reporters at Mehrabad Airport that "Tehran-Paris ties, the international situation, as well as certain other considerations, demand further exchange of views."

On the financial dispute between Iran and France, he said that he is to discuss the issue and examine ways of its settlement with Velayati.

Commenting on the French stance vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf issue and the current developments inside Iraq, Dumas said, "France has had an active role in the Persian Gulf crisis, for restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty and establishment of peace in the region. Paris deplores the outcome of the war and homelessness of the Iraqi nation." He praised Iran's hospitality towards the Iraqi refugees, adding, "France has helped the refugees on its part, and is ready to increase (relief) assistance with regards to the relevant needs and the (present) situation of the refugees."

Besides Velayati, the French foreign minister is to hold talks with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, and will also meet President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

First Round of Talks Concluded

LD0305174591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] The French minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Roland Dumas, held his first round of talks with Mr. Velayati this afternoon. During the talks, bilateral relations, the regional and international situations, and other issues of interest were discussed.

The French foreign minister said: Our presence in Tehran is a sign of the French Government's political decision to strengthen and deepen relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Describing the positions of the French Government vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis and its outcome, and expressing his concern over the plight of the Iraqi refugees, he said: The situation was unpredictable. Naturally, neither you nor we could remain indifferent. You treated those refugees that suffered from cold, hunger, and disease in the best possible way.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, referred to the relations between the two countries as satisfactory and said: Fortunately, the mutual political will for the expansion of relations between the two countries did not remain at the single decision level. We can witness its positive results in the political climate of the two countries.

Concerning the situation in the region and the issue of the Iraqi refugees, Mr. Velayati said: We tried to base our approach to the current problems of the region on ideological principles and humane sentiments. Despite the great difficulties that we had, and continue to have, we have welcomed the flood of refugees with open arms. We put our resources at their disposal. You are aware that this problem is not our sole responsibility. The international community has certain responsibilities toward this tragedy and must meet them in a worthy manner.

On the security of the region, Mr. Velayati said: We believe that the security of the region must be provided by the countries of the region. At the same time, we accept that contact and exchange of views with the international community will lead to the reinforcement of that security. He added: We believe that Article 8 of Resolution 598 is a very good basis for a plan to provide security for the region.

In response, Mr. Dumas said: We believe that the efforts of Iran to find regional solutions for the problems of the region are very important and noteworthy. Concerning the security of the region, we too believe that no foreign force or country should replace the role that the United Nations can play.

Refugee Aid Praised

LD0305193991 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Roland Dumas is in Iran. From the moment of his arrival in Tehran, the foreign minister stressed France's willingness to put the finishing touches to the normalization of relations with Iran, over which the shadow of the $1 billion loan granted by Tehran to Paris in 1979 still hangs. Roland Dumas also paid homage to Iran for the reception it gave the Kurdish refugees, stressing that France was ready to increase its aid to the Iraqis who have found refuge in Iran.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0405132991 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today attacked the U.S. for its attempts to monopolize the power in the region through its aggressive policies.

Speaking at a meeting with the visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas here, the president also expressed hope that the United Nations would be able to settle the current crisis in the region and restore regional security without the influence of certain big powers.

Terming the plight of the Iraqi refugees as "disastrous" the president said those countries involved in creating this situation, should feel more responsibilty.

"Iran is spending daily 15 million dollars on the refugees, and the Iranian people have also proved their sympathy for them," he added.

Dumas in reply said Iran had "a very important and significant role" to play in the region.

He also handed over an invitation from French President Francois Mitterrand for Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit France. Expansion of Tehran-Paris economic cooperation and the settlement of a financial dispute between the two countries were among other issues discussed.

In related news, the French minister left here for the southern border areas later in the day, to visit one of the camps of the Iraqi Shiite refugees.

Dumas heading a ranking delegation arrived here Friday at the invitation of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on a 3-day official visit. The two foreign ministers have held several rounds of talks on bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues.

Earlier this morning Dumas and Velayati held a joint press conference, where they termed the outcome of their talks as very positive.

Talks With Petroleum Minister

LD0405115591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Today, Roland Dumas, French foreign affairs minister, and our Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, discussed ways of expanding cooperation and ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr. Dumas met and conferred with our country's oil minister. At the meeting, the French foreign affairs minister described the Islamic Republic's role in the region's political and economic equations as important. He told our petroleum minister that France is ready for the continued expansion of cooperation in fields of interest to both countries. He also welcomed the establishment of a joint economic commission.

The same report, says that Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i also discussed the very important and decisive role oil and energy will play in the international economy in the next 20 years. He stressed that this will result in cooperation between producer and consumer and noted that OPEC's role in those relationships would increase further.

Our petroleum minister expressed the hope that, in view of the current opportunities for expansion of cooperation, particularly in export of gas and oil to France, the two countries' economic cooperation would increase in all fields, such as the construction of petrochemical plants and oil exploration and production. Some obstacles should also be removed, he stated.

Talks Assessed

LD0405113891 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and France today assessed the outcome of their ongoing talks here as "very positive and constructive."

'Ali Akbar Velayati and Roland Dumas held two rounds of "general discussions" and one round of "private talks" since the arrival here of the latter Friday. Dumas is here on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart. He is also to visit Iraqi refugee camps in southern Iran later today.

Velayati said at a joint news conference with Dumas here that in their talks the two foreign ministers had discussed bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues.

"Both foreign ministers believe that things are going well between Iran and France and the future of relations between our two countries is promising," Velayati said.

He also said Tehran and Paris had decided to diversify and strengthen mutual relations in various areas, adding that exchange of delegations between the two countries should continue to serve that purpose.

Dumas hailed Iran's humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi refugees. He also underlined Iran's role in any regional security arrangement as a "powerful state in the region and the world."

Dumas expressed pleasure at his Tehran visit at the head of an "important" French delegation and said the two foreign ministers had worked a lot to "promote Iran-France relations to the present high level."

Dumas was received by President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning and extended an invitation to him from his French counterpart Francois Mitterrand to visit France. Dumas said he had told President Hashemi-Rafsanjani "how much we appreciate Iran's humanitarian assistance" to the Iraqi refugees.

Dumas also held a separate meeting with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i today.

Dumas voiced the "deep concern" of Iran and France over "the internal situation in Iraq" and thanked Tehran for the facilities it had provided to foreign states to aid the Iraqi refugees in Iran. He also said France was ready to extend more assistance to the refugees "if needed."

The French foreign minister said Tehran-Paris economic relations had improved to such an extent that "we are now the fifth exporting country to Iran while previously we were the 19th." This, he added, should even improve further.

Dumas also thanked "my dear friend" Velayati for his "warm hospitality" and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for receiving him.

Asked if a time had been set for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to France, Dumas said the Iranian president had accepted the invitation and that he and Velayati would work on its exact date.

In reply to a question on the idea, also backed by Iran, of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's trial as a "war criminal", Velayati hoped that the international community would take some positive steps in this respect so that no one else would dare to commit similar crimes in the future.

On the same subject, Dumas said Iran and France are "equally" concerned about the situation inside Iraq. "We also agreed that the fate of Iraq should be decided by the people of Iraq themselves." Dumas immediately hoped that this choice would take place "freely and in a democratic climate."

He said various international organizations, including the European Community and the West European Union chaired by France in 1990-1991, have openly called for the condemnation of war crimes and crimes against humanity. "Let me only remind that France is a member of these organizations and its stance is clear in this regard," Dumas said.

On Iran-France financial disputes, Velayati said the deputies of the two foreign ministers, Mahmud Va'ezi and Francois Scheer, were holding more talks on the subject. "It is our hope that before the end of this trip, we could reach some positive points."

Dumas shared "this logical and wise optimism" of Dr. Velayati on the same question.

France's Eurodif [European Uranium Enrichment Company] company had received a one billion dollar loan from Iran during the Shah's time and has so far returned only a part of the loan without its interest. The two sides have held several rounds of talks on the subject but have not reached a final agreement yet.

On Iran's role in regional security system, Dumas said:

"I think today there is no need for me to say that France recognizes Iran as a great power in the region and a power in the world. Iran plays a major role in the region and in settling its issues. We have been following Dr. Velayati's talks (in the region) regarding these issues with great interest and eagerness... To sum it up, I can say it is not possible to think of settling a regional issue without the presence of Iran."

Velayati said he had also discussed the question of the hostages with Dumas "as a humanitarian issue and in a general context." He said all hostages, whether in Lebanon or elsewhere, should be released. He described the hostages as "innocent people detained against their will" and called for their freedom regardless of their nationality.

Dumas confirmed Velayati's remarks about the hostages and said he had become very happy to see that Iran continued to adhere to its "principled" stances regarding the freedom of all the hostages.

Asked if the Iraqi Shiite refugees from the south should not receive the same aid as the Kurds from the north did, Dumas said his country did not discriminate when extending aid to the victims Saddam's suppressive rule. He said France was helping and will continue to help the Iraqi Shiites and Kurds. "I believe we should symathize with the Shiites because they have suffered a lot both during the Iraq-Iran war and the Kuwait war." He said he would visit the Iraqi Shiite refugees in southern Iran this evening as a gesture of sympathy and solidarity with them.

Greeted by Refugees

LD0405200191 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Foreign Minister of France Roland Dumas today visited the Imam Hasan (peace be upon him) refugee camp in the border town of

Bostan which houses 8,000-plus Iraqi Arabs. He was accompanied by Khuzestan Governor General Taqalla'i and some French journalists.

Dumas was greeted at the camp by the Iraqi refugees shouting "We do not want Saddam" and other slogans against the Ba'thist regime, which scenes were duly filmed by the French mediamen.

He expressed hope that the refugees will soon return home, and reiterated that "Iraqi people should determine the future of Iraq."

The governor-general briefed the French minister on the plight of the Iraqi Arabs, whose problems have largely been ignored by the world media.

Since the Iraqi influx to Iran began last month, some 68,000 Shiite Arabs have entered Khuzestan Province, in addition to the million odd Iraqi Kurdish refugees in the northwestern Iran, said Taqalla'i.

The French minister is carrying 9.5 tons of foodstuff for the refugees.

Financial Disputes Discussed

LD0505091491 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—French Foreign Ministry's Director General Francois Scheer and Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi [title as received] in a meeting here Saturday discussed ways of settling the existing financial disputes between Iran and France.

The Iranian official reiterated the need for quick settlement of the discrepancies and greater flexibility of France in this regard.

Va'ezi said that despite the favourable growth in bilateral economic and political ties in the past two years, Tehran-Paris financial dispute has been an obstacle hindering further deepening of relations.

Scheer who accompanied the French foreign minister on a three-day official visit and left Tehran Sunday morning said both the French president and government were determined to solve the issue swiftly.

Meanwhile, the French official met with head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Baqer Hakim here Saturday and discussed the future of Iraq.

According to SAIRI sources Scheer told Hakim that France and other members of the European Community (EC) will continue to exert pressure on Saddam Husayn of Iraq either to introduce radical changes or step down from power.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam thanked the French Government for supporting the Iraqi refugees and the Saturday visit of French Minister Roland Dumas of the refugee camps of the Iraqi Shiite Muslims in southern Iran.

Hakim also called for further attention to the plight of more than 100,000 Iraqis who have fled tyranny and repression of the Iraqi regime and sought shelter in marshlands of southern Iraq and now face hunger, diseases and gradual death.

The Iraqi revolutionary leader appealed to the French Government to urge the United Nations to intervene and save lives of the Iraqi people in southern and central Iraq.

Financial Agreement Reached

LD0505075491 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Successful mission for Roland Dumas. The foreign minister's visit to Iran seems to have achieved its objective, that is, reestablishing normal relations between Paris and Tehran. Yesterday, the two parties concluded an agreement in principle on the financial dispute inherited from the Shah's era, a dispute which has been poisoning realtions between the two countries for more than 10 years. A future Mitterrand-Hashemi-Rafsanjani summit in Paris was agreed upon as well.

Mutual Invitations Noted

LD0505121691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Tehran this morning. [passage omitted] In an interview with our correspondent before his departure, he said: In my meeting with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I submitted the French president's invitation to him to visit France. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepted the invitation and also invited Mr. Mitterrand to visit Tehran. [passage omitted]

Dumas on Visit

LD0505085991 Tehran IRNA in English 0619 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas wound up a three-day official visit to Tehran Sunday morning expressing hope that peace and security will return to the Persian Gulf region.

Speaking at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport before departure the French minister said: "It is difficult at the moment to find a definite (security) plan for the region but all must have a share in the plan and the U.N. must participate in it."

More on his visit to Iran, he said he inspected Iraqi refugee camps in southern Iran adding that they are in need of urgent assistance. Dumas said Paris will boost its aids to the refugees.

On Tehran-Paris financial disputes, he said that certain degree of progress was made and hoped that a proper plan will be formulated to settle the disputes.

Iran's foreign minister who was at the airport to see off his French counterpart said in talks with Dumas bilateral relations, situation in the region, developments in Iraq and other international issues were raised.

Velayati said that presidents of Iran and France are to meet in the near future.

On Tehran-Paris disputes, Velayati said Saturday talks between the Foreign Ministry officials of the two countries have brought the two countries closer to the final settlement of the issue. "The definite result may be announced in the next two weeks."

While in Tehran Dumas held talks with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and also Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i.

Commentary Views Political Aspects of Dumas Visit

LD0405124991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1001 GMT 4 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Tehran yesterday. During this visit he will hold talks with the foreign minister and oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At a meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the two countries' relations and the future meeting between the presidents of Iran and France will be discussed. During these talks, bilateral relations, the regional situation, developments in Iraq, and the issue of the Iraqi refugees will be reviewed.

Since the resumption of ties between Tehran and Paris in the year 1367 [21 March 1988 to 20 March 1989], this is the second official visit of France's foreign minister to Tehran. During this period the two countries have always maintained political and economic contacts and various delegations have visted Tehran and Paris. In the political sphere, Dr. Velayati went to Paris for an official visit last year, the first since the victory of the Islamic revolution. This was a visit that, thanks to the political will on both sides, began a new chapter in the two countries' relations. The two countries have also signed several agreements on economic, oil, gas, petrochemical, and heavy industrial cooperation in the last two years. In this connection, based on the agreements reached between the National Bank of Paris and Iran's Central Bank, a credit of $2.6 billion will be placed at Iran's disposal, which will be used to purchase technical equipment. Also based on a bilateral agreement between a French bank and its Iranian side, a credit worth $2.2 billion will be placed at Iran's disposal for implementation of petrochemical projects.

On the whole it can be said that France is participating actively in the implementation of Iran's five-year plan. It is expected that in view of the existing understandings these forms of cooperation will expand. It is with respect to these points that French Foreign Minister Dumas told Mr. Velayati in his first round of talks: Our presence in Tehran in itself is proof of the French Government's political resolve to expand and strengthen ties with Iran.

The French foreign minister's visit to Tehran, in addition to having a positive effect on bilateral ties, is certainly worthy of consideration within the framework of warmer relations between Iran and Europe. France is one of the most important countries of Europe. In this respect the issues of the Persian Gulf region, developments in Iraq, and the plight of the refugees will receive greater attention. As one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, France has cast a positive vote on all the Council resolutions against Iraq. It was also among those countries that kicked Iraq out of Kuwait by military means. France is also cooperating with Britain and the United States to set up special zones inside Iraqi territory to persuade the Iraqi refugees in Iran and Turkey to return to their own homeland. At the same time, UN sanctions against Iraq remain in force and political and economic pressure on Iraq continues.

Although Iran condemns the Iraqi regime's treatment of that country's civilian population, it opposes the presence of the U.S. forces and their allies inside Iraq. Iran's sensitivity on this issue has been repeatedly expressed in remarks made by Iranian officials. This is indicative of the important fact that Iran will concentrate its efforts to remove, or at least to limit, the tragic consequences of the recent development. The presence of high-ranking French officials in Tehran can thus be effective in the direct evaluation by each side of the other side's stances and actions; and the visit can prepare suitable grounds for reaching a comprehensive and lasting solution.

Finance Minister Reviews World Bank Meeting

LD0505095791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Mr. Nurbakhsh, the economics and finance minister; and Mr. 'Adeli, the managing director of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who traveled to Washington to attend the joint spring session of the World Bank and IMF, returned to Tehran last night. The economics and finance minister talked to our reporter about the outcome of his trip:

[Begin recording] [Nurbakhsh] The spring session of the IMF and World Bank was held in Washington last week. The meetings of the interim and development committees were important sessions during which various international issues were discussed. We had meetings with the economics and finance ministers of Germany, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and France. Mutual economic cooperation was discussed at these meetings. Considering the fact that the joint Iran-German session will take place in

Tehran very soon, matters that will be on the agenda of the session were discussed with the German finance minister.

We talked about more serious cooperation with the French finance minister, especially on financial grounds. It was decided to hold more meetings either in Tehran or Paris, should the need arise after the financial dispute is resolved.

There were talks with the Japanese finance minister on the utilization of certain resources, the yen, and other major projects. They responded positively. It was decided that the Japanese finance minister will travel to Tehran to finalize matters.

Concerning economic cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, considering the fact that the first session was designed to get to know each other, the issue of cooperation will specifically appear on our work agenda. In our first session, which will be held during the next few weeks, ways of cooperation between Iran and Arabia will be specified.

[Correspondent] During your stay in America, you met a group of Iranians residing there. Could you please tell us what you discussed with them?

[Nurbakhsh] As you pointed out, through the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran's UN representative, we had a session in New York with approximately 500 or 600 Iranians. They included university lecturers, industrial experts who own industrial complexes and factories over there, and others who are active in economic matters and commerce. On the whole, I can say that this group of our compatriots constitute one of our country's resources, due to their expertise and experience. They can be very useful in the reconstruction of our country. The meeting had an impact on them; from the expression on their faces. I could see that they want to cooperate in the reconstruction of the country. Many of them were very eager to return as soon as possible to start their economic activities in the various reconstruction efforts. It was decided to utilize this force through Iran's UN representatives. [end recording]

President on Relations With Iraq, U.S.

LD0505171591 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today ruled out the resumption of relations with the U.S. at the present juncture, saying "we are in no way ready to establish ties with the U.S. and we don't even think about it."

Speaking to students of the Tehran University, the president said Washington has been after restoration of ties with Iran since long time ago. He said the U.S. intended to put Iran in a spot through the clandestine visit of the former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane to Tehran. "They (the Americans) know that they themselves are terrorists, and the Lebanese Phalangists who are holding our hostages are their agents," said the president. Nevertheless, he noted, no one can prove that those who are holding their (Western) hostages have a link with Iran. "The remarks which are made in this regard are irrelevant."

On Iran's stance on the possible extension of the so-called safe havens throughout the northern Iraq, he said Iran has already announced its opposition to the creation of safe haven by the U.S. "The Americans have ill-intentions and we are concerned about that. If the plan is extended to the Iranian borders we will reject it and prevent it."

On ambiguities regarding the landing of a U.S. military plane in Tehran, he said it was a cargo plane belonging to the U.S. Army, adding that such planes are used for carrying relief aids. "Iran also owns similar planes... but you know newspapers are after clamorous issues, and someone may say something behind a tribune causing the people to be led astray."

The landing of a U.S. plane carrying aid to the Iraqi refugees in Iran prompted some objection by a sector of the media as well as some Majles deputies. This was further aggravated after it was realised that the plane carried second hand and used blankets and clothes for the refugees. An Iranian official in charge of the refugee affairs said this week that the plane would be returned to the U.S.

On the future of relations with Iraq, the president said peaceful co-existence with Baghdad depended on its behavior towards its people. "In that case Iraq can have good cooperation with Iran in the future," he added. He said Iraq cannot go ahead with the present situation. "We believe that free elections should be held in Iraq under the supervision of the United Nations, in order that the people have the opportunity to select their favored system of government." He also said the number of the refugees will increase should insecurity continue in Iraq.

In response to a student asking about relations with Egypt, the president said Iran has not yet restored ties with Egypt. "We have an interest section (in Egypt). And we have relations with such countries as Turkey which maintain diplomatic ties with Israel." Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed an Iranian presence in Egypt "valuable" saying that Egypt has great influence over the Muslim world culturally and for its al-Azhar University.

On relations with London despite its "obstructions", the president said good relations existed between Iran and Britain, however. "The principle is to have relations (with other countries), but the U.S. has its own special case and Israel is illegitimate in our view." Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he has always been telling the cabinet that relations should exist. "A diplomat comes here and works under certain conditions, and it is the same for us."

Referring to the presence of 1,000 Iranian students in Britain, as well as purchase of spare parts for many important industries from Britain, the president said "we cannot be needless of Britain, and we should use the universities in a country like Britain." He added that "I am in favour of friendly relations with other countries."

On an autonomous Kurdistan in Iraq the president said "a democratic society" is the solution to enable the people to select their desired government, and be present in the parliament. "Such partitions are not in favour of the Kurds nor of the Arabs." He said a free government should come to power in Iraq, and that in his talks in Syria and Turkey the leaders of the three countries had agreed that a free Iraq should be created. Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Syria and Turkey last week, the first by him since he came to power as president in 1989.

In response to a question about the damages inflicted on Iran as a result of the eight-year-old Iraqi imposed war as well as the U.S. role in delaying reparations to Iran, the president said Iran has called on the United Nations to fullfil its responsibility in this regard. Recalling the sixth point of the U.N. Resolution 598 (on the Iraq-Iran war) he said the U.N. secretary general has been assigned to appoint a committee to introduce the aggressor and decide payment of reparations. "The secretary general had promised us to complete the task by April (last month), but whether this task is related to the U.S. or not, it should be said that officially it is not, but in practice it is."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Americans have an influence in the Security Council and at the same time are hostile to Iran. "In my opinion this (Security) Council works under the U.S. supervision." Asked whether the world's policy or Iran's stances had changed, Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered none of them have changed. "During the war (with Iraq) there was a severe arms embargo against us. However, these sanctions no more exist today." "We will continue to follow the thoughts of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, as well as the goals of the revolution," the president intimated.

Turning to the issue of the Iranians residing abroad, he said Iran wants all the Iranians to return to their country. "I told the personnel of the Iranian Embassy in Turkey to work towards drawing the confidence of this group of Iranians." Noting that Iran follows the policy of repatriating of Iranians abroad, the president said a general amnesty plan is under study which if approved by the leader (Ayatollah Khamene'i) those with more serious offenses would also be pardoned. He did not elaborate.

On the law of the parties, he said the government has notified the parties of the law, and that they can register. "If a party was supposed to be successful, it would have been the (dissolved) Islamic Republic Party whose members included top personalities of the revolution."

More on the people's economic problems the president said economic indexes have undergone changes in favour of the people. The budget deficit and the cash flow have decreased, bank deposits have raised, and finally the inflation rate has diminished to under ten percent, something which the president said seemed impossible.

Discusses Economy

LD0505115291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 91

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani took part in a seminar at Tehran University today to mark the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Motahhari. He spoke about various aspects of the personality of martyr Motahhari as an Islamic thinker and answered questions from university students on current issues. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent reports that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the head of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution, discussed the role of universities and university students in the country and ways of running academic institutions. Islam and leadership are the keys to the administration of all institutions and organizations and the designators of our movements, he said, adding: Universities and society must not be monopolized. Suitable conditions should be created for cultural and scientific growth and for the development of the entire society.

On economic issues and problems and on the control of inflation, the president said: The government is trying, while maintaining subsidies for the people, to meet the interest of agricultrual producers as well by increasing purchase prices of agricultural products. The government has also decided to invest more in infrastructural fields, such as water and electric installations, heavy industries, roads, oil refineries, and other areas. Such investments are inflationary in the short term, but will in the long term bring about greater comfort, a reduction in prices, and the creation of employment.

The president added: Efforts have also been made with regard to reducing the rate of inflation, which has reached approximately 8 percent. With increased production in industrial and production units, we will witness increased supply and reduced prices. The aim of the government in this connection is to establish a satisfactory economic equilibrium and to provide social justice.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also commented on the creation of a safe haven in northern Iraq. He said: The solution to Iraq's internal problems is the establishment of democracy and the government's proper treatment of the people. While the establishment of a safe environment for Iraqi refugees is necessary, the Iraqi Government could turn Iraq into a secure environment for all the people of the country by holding free elections and by bringing about unity among Arabs, Kurds, and other groups. There would then be no need for the establishment of a special zone with the presence of foreign forces.

On the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The establishment and expansion of cultural, political, and economic relations with the various countries of the world, while maintaining Islamic ideals and principles, are aims of the government. Iran is not thinking about establishing ties with the United States. The United States always tries to make the issue of establishing ties with Iran subject to certain conditions.

Our president mentioned the return of Iranians living abroad. He stated that the government's policy is aimed at the return of all Iranians living abroad. It has been stressed in this connection that Iran's embassies will undertake the necessary cooperation with those wanting to return to this country. [passage omitted]

Papers on Western Treatment of Refugees, Muslims

LD0505094291 Tehran IRNA in English 0719 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Three out of the four morning dailies Sunday condemned silence of the Western powers towards persecution of the Iraqi Shiite Muslims by the Baghdad regime and said the West has adopted a policy of double standard in dealing with the Iraqi Kurdish refugees and the Shiite Muslims.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that the Western powers which once opposed Saddam Husayn and his policies at home, have now made a 180 degree turn in their attitude towards the Iraqi ruler.

"In fact the West has resorted to a double standard policy in its dealing with the people of Iraq, because while it expresses a demagogical sympathy with the people in the northern part of Iraq, it expresses satisfaction with the mass killing of the Iraqis in the southern parts of the country...

"The security zone is an open lie for covering the U.S. plots in the north and for white washing the happenings in the southern part of Iraq which go on uninterruptedly....

"The head of the Middle East section of the International Red Cross says in the southern parts of Iraq five to six million people are striving for survival while they are struggling with death....The people in the southern parts of Iraq die en masse.... He says as a result of focusing attention on the plight of the Kurds in the northern regions of Iraq, attention has been shifted away from what has been happening in southern Iraq, as though absolutely nothing special were happening there...."

The Persian daily ABRAR touched on the same issue in its editorial saying in part: "For a long time since the public unrest in Iraq, the Western media maintained a conspiracy of total silence. Now, one month after the suppression of the uprising of Muslims in Iraq the media are gradually telling only a portion of what has befallen Muslims in southern Iraq. This shift in reporting policy happens at a time when there are reports about a new wave of refugees. This time a human wave is rushing into Iran from the southern parts of Iraq...

"But apparently as far as the West is concerned the situation is still far from being favorable to warrant the ouster of Saddam Husayn...

"At the same time the adoption of proper policies by Iran since the outbreak of the crisis in the region has placed Iran in a vantage position for playing a role towards determining the destiny of the region. The world countries and especially the countries of the region have realized that peace and security can be attained only by the collective cooperation of all the countries of the region independent of the decisions of the world powers.

"The Muslim nations expect that Iran's political effort will return peace and security to the region."

The English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL touched on the same issue saying in part: "While a number of Kurdish refugees have begun the trip back home the Shiites living in southern Iraq have begun to leave the homeland for another country in the wake of a bloody revenge by Saddam Husayn's Republican Guards units. Reports indicate that tens of thousands of Iraqi Shiite refugees have already entered the Saudi Arabian border town of Safwan...

"Should Saddam achieve his final peace agreement with the Kurds, he will deploy his now stationed troops in the north, to the south and will massacre a lot of defenseless people. This is what the people in the south fear most. In his efforts to end the popular resistance against his regime, Saddam is assured that he will not be even condemned by the West because a secular dictator is crushing a 'Shiite fundamentalist revolt' which if it succeeds, will threaten the West's interests in the Middle East region....

"Therefore, it is necessary for the U.N. and its affiliated agencies to find a solution and means, including military might of preventing Saddam from committing as yet further crimes against the Iraqi people, now."

Cabinet Briefed on Talks in Syria, Turkey

LD0505204391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] The Cabinet held a session this afternoon and was briefed on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's talks with the Syrian and Turkish presidents. Executive departments were assigned tasks to pursue the decisions made on bilateral issues between Iran and the two countries.

The president stressed that the issues pertaining to the Middle East, Palestine, and Iraq were the most fundamental issues discussed with Turkish and Syrian officials. He appraised the closeness of viewpoints of the Syrian and Turkish presidents with that of Iran's as significant, considering the special role each one plays in the region.

During the session, Moshen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance; and Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, Central Bank governor, who visited New York to take part in the joint session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, submitted a report on the session and subsequent decisions to the Cabinet.

On the sidelines of the session, Nurbakhsh also informed the Cabinet on several points regarding his meeting with Iranian compatriots. He stressed the readiness of a considerable number of them to return to the country.

Khamene'i Briefed

LD0505210191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, following his week-long tour of Syria and Turkey, met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and submitted an extensive report on the achievements, discussions with high-ranking officials, and meetings with the peoples of Syria and Turkey.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i was pleased with the significant achievements of the tour.

Velayati Receives Message From Syria's Al-Shar'

LD0305145791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Mr. Ahmad al-Hasan, the Syrian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, this afternoon met Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, and submitted to him a special message from Syrian Foreign Minister Mr. Faruq al-Shar'.

At this meeting the Syrian ambassador referred to the important outcome of the recent visit to Syria by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation, and considered that his trip was very valuable in connection with the region's issues. Mr. Velayati termed relations between the two countries as fraternal and important, and stressed the expansion and greater depth of these relations.

Our country's foreign minister responded to the special message from the Syrian foreign minister with a message to that country's ambassador, who will be departing for Damascus tomorrow.

Cabinet Approves Amnesty, Return of Property

TA0605084991 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] According to a report, immediately upon returning to Tehran from Syria and Turkey, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani got the Cabinet to approve a plan according to which the Islamic Republic regime will issue a general amnesty for all prisoners and will return confiscated factories and companies to their original owners in order to lure investors. According to the plan, Iranian experts, managers, and academicians will be invited to return to the country in order to reconstruct Iran.

According to this report, after the Cabinet approved the plan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani got it ratified by Khamene'i and requested that the Majles' approve it also. We have learned that at a Majles committee meeting held to discuss this plan, some of the Majles deputies strongly criticized it and said that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is seeking to bring back the Shah's era. Those deputies stressed that they will oppose any sort of rapprochement by Hashemi-Rafsanjani with the West.

Supreme Security Council Views Regional Security

LD0405163791 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] today discussed the security of the region and the need to restore peace and stability in Iraq.

The session chaired by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and attended by all members including political advisors and military commanders, underlined the importance of the issue of Iraqi refugees, the need to seriously supply them with relief aid and to prepare the ground for their eventual return home to Iraq.

Among other issues, the SNSC discussed support to the Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine, and reviewed the outcome of the president's visits to Damascus and Ankara and his talks with his Syrian and Turkish counterparts on the Persian Gulf, Middle East and the internal situation in Iraq.

* Second Phase of Abadan Refinery Operational

91AS0834I London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] With the operation of the second phase of the Abadan refinery, which was completed early last week, this refinery will be able to transform up to 265,000 barrels of crude oil into various petroleum byproducts, such as gasoline, motor oil, kerosene, diesel fuel, home heating oil, various types of tar and natural gas, and distribute them among consumers. The officials of the National Iranian Oil Company announced that with the operation of the second phase of the Abadan oil refinery, a part of the domestic needs for refined petroleum products have been provided for, and that every day half a million dollars in foreign currency will be saved. The capacity of the Abadan oil refinery before the attack of the Iraqi forces on Iran amounted to 650,000 barrels per day and in this respect was one of the largest refineries in the world. The first phase of this refinery, which in the course of the eight years of war with Iraq had been greatly damaged, was reconstructed in early 1368 [1989] and began operations producing 140,000 barrels a day. Hasan Ebrahimi Habibi, the vice president of 'Ali Akbar

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, said during the opening of the second phase of operations of the Abadan refinery: "Before the rebuilding of the Abadan refinery, which is the oldest refinery of its kind in the world, world petroleum experts considered it lost. But the hard-working employees of the Ministry of Petroleum, with all their efforts, refused to accept this view and rebuilt the refinery so as to provide a portion of the petroleum products of the country today from this refinery.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Election-Related Incidents, Violence Reported

BK0405003891 Hong Kong AFP in English 2230 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 3 (AFP)—A Nepal Home Ministry official said Friday that several people had been injured during clashes between supporters of rival political parties in Harinagar, southeast of here.

The ministry spokesman denied unofficial reports that two people had been killed in the incident Thursday, saying police had fired blanks in a bid to disperse a crowd of Nepali Congress and Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist Faction) which had attacked campaigners for election candidate Narendra Chaudhary.

Mr. Chaudhary is contesting this month's general elections as a candidate for the National Democratic Party (NDP) of former Panchayat prime minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

The activists disrupted a planned demonstration and public meeting called by Mr. Chaudhary and heckled him about the suppression of pro-multi party campaigners when he held the now-defunct post of zonal commissioner under the former partyless Panchayat regime, which was ousted last year.

The crowd later panicked when some of the NDP (Chand Faction) campaigners allegedly threw stones at them.

Several thousand of them later encircled the house of former home minister and NDP (Chand Faction) candidate Dil Bahadur Shrestha demanding to be allowed to search the house where, they alleged, Mr. Shrestha had stored ammunition and explosives to be used during the election.

A police report said the crowd had remained outside the house, which was guarded by riot police, for about 14 hours from midday Thursday and "apparently terrorized the occupants which included a pregnant woman of advanced stage and a woman suffering from a heart ailment."

Finally Mr. Shrestha agreed to allow the police to search his house where no ammunition, firearms or explosives were found, the police report said, adding the crowd gradually dispersed after the search.

NC, Communists' Election Prospects Viewed

BK0505042491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0308 GMT 5 May 91

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, May 5 (AFP)—With a general election in Nepal merely a week away, both the Nepali Congress [NC] and the Nepal Communist Party's United Marxist-Leninist Faction [NCP (UML)] have stepped up their campaigns.

More than 25,000 supporters attended big Nepal Congress rallies Friday and Saturday in the Nepalese capital, chanting their appeal to voters to "vote for the tree symbol."

Nepal, like other South Asian countries, prints party logos on ballots to enable illiterate citizens to take part in the election process.

The NCP (UML) held similar rallies on Thursday, drawing crowds of over 10,000, witnesses said.

The Nepali Congress is facing strong opposition from the NCP (UML) and also rightist factions, dominated by former activists of the autocratic Panchayat government that was overturned last year following massive pro-democracy demonstrations.

However, political analysts say the factional nature of those parties on the left and right, which in some cases has resulted in multiple nominations to the same electoral seat, can only benefit the Nepali Congress.

"The Nepali Congress has an advantageous position over the leftist and the rightist camps ... as the Nepal Communist Party is divided into nine groups while the right is divided into two factions," one political analyst said.

"If the Nepal Communist Party candidates contest unitedly with a slogan of 'One Leftist in One Constituency,' it would emerge unchallenged to sweep the election with a majority of votes," he added.

Leftist factional infighting in districts such as Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur would give the Nepali Congress "a good chance to sweep the voters in all three cities," the analyst said.

The Nepali Congress enjoys the support of Western countries, which are Nepal's major aid donors, and many intellectuals here fear a Western retreat from fresh economic commitment if the NCP (UML) emerges victorious from the May 12 polls.

Anti-Western slogans have been a noticeable feature of the NCP (UML)'s election campaign.

"If the NCP (UML) comes to the power, it would emerge as a dictator like the panchayat rulers and administrative corruption would be rampant making our life more difficult," said university lecturer Mohammed Habibullah.

Nepalese in the lower income bracket also fear an NCP (UML) victory may anger India and result in New Delhi reviving the economic blockade of Nepal which lasted fifteen months in 1989-90.

"If the essential goods and the petroleum and oil products do not regularly flow in from India it will cause a great hardship for us who have to survive with a daily wage earning," said Shanta Nakarmi, a motor mechanic.

The Nepali Congress has filed the largest number of candidates for the election with 204, while the NCP (UML) is close behind with 177 nominees.

Party politics aside, many analysts have emphasised the important role Nepal's climate may play in determining the outcome of the election.

"If the weather is bad with rain and thundershowers, then vote casting may be tremendously low and discourage those in hilly regions" from turning out, one analyst said. "This could on the whole benefit the NCP (UML) and other leftist camps."

People in the hilly regions seem to favour the Nepali Congress, but in bad weather analysts predict only the communists will turn out to vote along ideological lines.

Meteorologists have predicted heavy rains on polling day.

Pakistan

India Allegedly Fires Mortar Into Kashmir

BK0405113291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-administered Kashmir, May 4 (AFP)—More than 20 people were wounded in a cross-border mortar barrage allegedly fired by Indian troops in Kashmir Saturday, official sources here said.

The shells hit the main market of Athmuqam Township which lies close to the dividing line of control, the border between the Indian and Pakistani controlled parts of Kashmir claimed by both the countries, they said.

Athmuqam has been a target of recurring attacks by Indian troops, residents of the area said.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming militants fighting to free Jammu and Kahsmir, a Moslem majority state, from Indian rule. Since early 1990, more than 2,000 people have died in the Indian-administered Kashmir.

The South Asian neighbours have fought two of their three wars over the issue of Kashmir since independence from the British in 1947.

Pakistan denies any involvement in the Kashmiri uprising but has vowed to continue moral and political support to what it calls their right to self-determination.

'Strong Protest' Lodged With UN

BK0405132691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the UN observers on unprovoked firing by the Indian Army on villages in Athmuqam area of Muzaffarabad District. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Rawalpindi today that the shelling on the 2d, 3d, and 4th of this month had caused injuries to five civilians besides serious damage to a bank, a college building, and a number of shops. He said Indian troops had also fired on a civilian bus and some jeeps on the Neelum Valley road.

Kashmiris 'Determined' To End Indian Occupation

BK0405114291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The Azad Kashmir prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathod, has said that India, after having failed to suppress the uprising in occupied Kashmir, is now misleading the world community to divert its attention from the atrocities being committed by Indian troops on innocent Kashmiris. Addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad today, he said the Kashmiri people were determined to overthrow Indian occupation and liberate their motherland.

Government Rejects Indian Kidnapping Allegations

BK0405092491 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Pakistan has categorically refuted as false and contentious Indian press reports quoting an Indian Government official spokesman on the so-called link of Pakistan with those who had kidnapped the two Swedish nationals in occupied Kashmir. The Pakistan High Commissioner to India, Mr. Abdul Sattar, told Radio Pakistan's New Delhi correspondent that these reports are totally false and that the Indian foreign secretary had taken up the matter with him at a meeting in New Delhi yesterday. The Pakistan High Commissioner said that this was a figment of the imagination of Indian sources, which Indian media quoted for the false reports. No matter regarding kidnapping of the Swedish nationals by Kashmiri freedom fighters was at all raised during the meeting which was a routine one and they discussed only the bilateral matters.

Spokesman Refutes Allegation

BK0505025691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has rejected an Indian official spokesman's allegation that Pakistan is engineering kidnapping incidents, including those of two Swedish engineers, in Indian-occupied Kashmir. He dismissed the allegation as untenable and baseless, saying Pakistan is against all kinds of terrorist activities, including kidnappings.

The spokesman said it is a matter of regret and concern that Indian forces are making indiscriminate use of force and committing immeasurable repression on the pretext of searching for two Swedish engineers. He recalled that the Pakistani Government has repeatedly called on the international community to see that the representatives of Amnesty International and other human rights organizations are allowed to visit occupied Kashmir, so that the manner in which the Indian forces are violating human rights to suppress the legitimate demand of the Kashmiri people for their right of self-determination can be investigated.

Prime Minister Leaves for Bangladesh With Aid

BK0505030091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is leaving Islamabad this morning for Bangladesh to personally convey the sympathy of the people and Government of Pakistan on the devastation caused by the recent cyclone. He will be carrying with him as immediate aid a consignment of life-saving medicines and other relief goods. He is expected to announce further aid after visiting affected areas in Bangladesh. During his talks with Bangladesh's acting president and the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif will discuss immediate aid requirements of that country.

The relief materials being supplied by Pakistan for the cyclone-hit people include 2,500 tons of rice, 50,000 meters of cloth, 2,000 kg of medicines, foodstuffs, and 5,000 tents. Pakistan is also providing two helicopters for relief work in cyclone-affected areas on humanitarian grounds.

The first consignment of relief materials for cyclone-hit people of Bangladesh was given to that country's Deputy High Commissioner Dr. Afsarul Qadir in Islamabad yesterday. The materials included 2.5 tons of medicines, 5.5 biscuits, about 400 tents, and about 100 bales of cloth. Speaking on the occasion, the deputy high commissioner said Bangladeshis are thankful to Pakistan for its timely gesture of goodwill, which it has demonstrated by sharing the misery and sorrow of the Bangladeshi people in the aftermath of this natural disaster. He said the Pakistani prime minister's visit to Bangladesh will encourage the disaster-hit people of that country.

Returns From Dhaka

BK0605112691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, returned to Islamabad this afternoon after his visit to Bangladesh. While overflying India on his way back from Bangladesh, the prime minister in a message to his Indian counterpart, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said the harmonious relations based on mutual trust and confidence between India and Pakistan were essential for peace and stability in the region. He expressed good wishes for happiness and well-being of the people of India.

Announces Grant for Cyclone Victims

BK0605073391 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced a grant of 10 crore rupees for cyclone-affected people of Bangladesh. He announced this during his meeting with Bangladesh Prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka yesterday after visiting the cyclone-hit areas. Nawaz Sharif presemted Begum Khaleda Zia with a check of 20 lakh rupees as a first consignment of aid. Nawaz Sharif told the Bangladesh prime minister that her country can spend this amount in purchasing anything from Pakistan.

Earlier, Nawaz Sharif called on Bangladesh Acting President Justice Shahabuddin and assured him that Pakistan will make every effort to help cyclone-affected people. The acting president told the prime minister that his visit has greatly encourgaed the people of Bangladesh and has shown that Pakistan supports Bangladesh in time of tragedy. Demonstration of this feeling will help the people of Bangladesh to face these destructions. The Bangladesh acting president and prime minister thanked the Pakistani prime minister and people for this feeling. Nawaz Sharif visited Chittagong and some coastal areas by helicopter and train to view cyclone damage. Begum Khaleda Zia, senate chairman Wasim Sajjad, and internationally famed social worker Mother Theresa were with him. The prime minister was greatly affected by the cyclone damage and said Pakistan will help its Bangladesh brethren in this time of trial.

On his returning to Dhaka, the prime minister visited the graves of the leaders of the Pakistani movement, Maulvi A.K. Fazlul Haq, Khwaja Naseruddin, and Hussain.

Turkey's Ozal Stops Over, Meets President

TA0205202491 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] President Turgut Ozal, beginning a tour of various Pacific countries, met with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Karachi.

Kandemir Altan from the TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] team reports:

[Begin Altan recording] Ozal stopped over in Karachi, the capital of Pakistan, on his way to Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, and Malaysia. Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan received Ozal at the Karachi Airport, where the two presidents held talks. Ozal is about to leave Karachi now on his way to Singapore. [end recording]

PRC Minister Speaks at Banquet 4 May

BK0405074591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] Civil Affairs Minister of China Cui Naifu has said that friendship between China and Pakistan is permanent on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. He said this while speaking at a banquet hosted in his honor by Ejazul Haq, minister of labor, manpower and overseas Pakistanis affairs, in Islamabad yesterday. He said China is against interference in other countries' internal affairs. Speaking on this occasion, Ejazul Haq said friendship between China and Pakistan is not against any country. Drawing the Chinese minister's attention to Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir, he said large-scale severe violation of human rights is going on there. He said it is the duty of the world community to pay attention to incidents in occupied Kashmir and ask India to refrain from the use of barbaric force.

Delegation Meets With President

BK0405142791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 4 May 91

[Text] The five-member Chinese delegation led by Civil Affairs Minister Cui Naifu called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed the steps to improve cooperation in the field of social welfare between Pakistan and PRC.

The president said bilateral cooperation in this new field will strengthen the existing ties between the two countries.

Moscow Envoy Cancels Visit for Afghan Talks

BK0505111091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 5 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has cancelled a visit to Pakistan by one of its senior diplomats for discussions aimed at finding a political solution to the Afghan conflict, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Sunday.

"The visit is off for the moment but we cannot say why the Soviets have decided to call it off," he said.

"It could be due to recent developments in Afghanistan, particularly the liberation of Khowst by the mujahidin," the spokesman said.

The Afghan guerrillas scored a military success on March 31 in the eastern city of Khowst, bordering Pakistan, which they captured after 17 days of bloody fighting against troops of the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

The visit to Pakistan by Moscow's ambassador-at-large, Nikolai Kozyrev, was originally planned to discuss ways to end the 12-year-old Afghan conflict.

A diplomat at the Soviet embassy here said "the news of a visit by a Soviet delegation was in the air, but now I have heard that a senior Pakistani foreign office official would visit Moscow for consultations."

The Pakistani spokesman, reacting to this, said "so far no decision to send anyone to Moscow has been taken but such possibilities cannot be ruled."

The spokesman said Pakistan was "trying its best" to find a political solution "acceptable to all Afghans" through an expanded United Nations role.

A senior Pakistani diplomat, Riaz Mohammad Khan, last week met officials in Teheran and Riyadh to hold talks on the Afghan conflict, he said.

Fighting has continued in Afghanistan since the Soviet withdrawal on February 15, 1989. The mujahidin, backed by Pakistan, reject any dialogue with Afghan President Najibullah.

Sri Lanka

ADB To Grant Nation $240 Million Loan

BK0305122891 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister and Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge announced at the Cabinet meeting that Asian Development Board [ADB] has agreed to grant a loan of $240 million this year for various development projects in Sri Lanka. It will be granted on a soft-term basis. This was disclosed by Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremasinghe at yesterday's Cabinet briefing in Colombo. Mr. Wickremasinghe said that the ADB granted $196.4 million last year. The prime minister returned this week after attending the ADB meeting in Canada.

He also said that the government had approved to lift the ban on the export of scrap iron for the time being. It has also granted approval to set up the National Transport Commission.

Premadasa Further Relaxes Emergency Regulations

BK0305150091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1316 GMT 3 May 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 3 May (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa has further relaxed the emergency regulations in order to facilitate the forthcoming local government elections.

A news release issued by the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo states, "His Excellency the president has relaxed the emergency regulations further, to facilitate the local government elections. Regulation 18 of the emergency (miscellaneous provisions and powers) regulations which confers powers of search, seizure, arrest, and detention without a warrant on any police officer or any member of the armed services has been revoked in all areas of the country other than the northern and eastern provinces with effect from midnight of 4 May 1991. In revoking this emergency regulation, His Excellency the president has honoured a commitment he made when he relaxed several other emergency regulations earlier, on 29th March, in view of the local government elections.

These emergency regulations have been relaxed to ensure that the people can exercise their democratic right at the forthcoming local government elections freely, without the feeling of being restrained in any way".

Army Takes Over LTTE Checkpoint in North

BK0305163691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 91

[Text] The Sri Lankan Army has reportedly taken over an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] check point outside Vavuniya town in a lightning operation today. According to a military spokesman in Colombo, one soldier was killed and five members were injured in the operation. The LTTE casualty figure was not immediately available.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, has announced relaxation of emergency regulations to facilitate local bodies elections on the 11th of this month. A statement issued in Colombo today said the relaxation applies to all areas of the country, barring the Northeast, where polls are not being held.

Security Forces' Success in North Detailed

BK0405120191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1106 GMT 4 May 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 4 May (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces gained significant success in the three-pronged offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in northern Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that government troops backed by Air Force helicopters and SIA Machetti fighter bombers continued their northwards push from Nochchimoddai along the A-9 Vavuniya-Jaffna Highway and took control of the junction town of Omanthai.

The sources said troops had been met at Omanthai at a group of 30 terrorists who were routed, many were killed, while others were wounded and fled [sentence as received].

Meanwhile, the Air Force continued to pound and soften up LTTE positions in Nedunkerni and several other areas in Mullaitivu. Ground troops followed up the air raids by moving swiftly and capturing the LTTE bases.

Curfews are in force in the districts of Mullaitivu and Vavuniya, except for the Vavuniya town and Southern Sinhala Division.

At Karaitivu, the island west of mainland Jaffna, where the Navy's Karainagar base is located, the security forces captured a major LTTE base and seized an ambulance loaded with explosives, hand grenades, sophisticated communications equipment, including radio telephones, inter-comm sets, Betamax VCR [Video Cassette Recorder], video decks and antipersonal mines and camouflage uniforms.

One LTTE cadre was killed at Palaly in Jaffna.

A French nurse suffered gunshot injuries on her hip when a Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) vehicle which had strayed three miles off the route given them by the military, and was at Puttukulam west of Nochchimadai, in the battle zone was hit by retaliatory fire from an Air Force helicopter which had been fired at by the LTTE from two vehicles in the area where the MSF vehicle was. Official sources said that two doctors, one British and the other French, who with the nurse formed the MSF group had been permitted to proceed as they said they wanted to get to Colombo very urgently. They had been given a specific route to take, but for a reason as yet not known the MSF vehicle chauffered by a Sri Lankan had strayed into the battle zone.

The sources said it was very likely the LTTE had under the cover of the MSF vehicle, fired at the helicopter.

'Hard Fought' Four-Hour Battle Near Kolikulam

BK0605103491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0915 GMT 6 May 91

["OANA/Pool Item"]

[Text] Colombo, May 6 (LANKAPUVATH)—Government troops won a hard fought four hour battle with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Sunday [5 May] at Kolikulam, northwest of Vavuniya town, at a point between Pulliyankulam and Rampekulam on the Vavuniya-Jaffna road.

Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe told LANKAPUVATH the terrorists had suffered heavy casualties while the security forces lost two officers and 13 soldiers in fierce fighting. Eleven soldiers were wounded.

The army commander said ground troops with air force support were ploughing ahead despite heavy resistance. The artillery were pounding enemy positions on the ground, while the air force was homing in on vehicles transporting LTTE cadres and other targets.

The offensive against the LTTE in the northern districts of Vavuniya and Mullativu was continuing.

He said the security forces were drawing the terrorists who were in well entrenched positions and attacking them on the ground and from the air.

Reports stated that the air force was continuing to hit LTTE targets at Mullativu, where heavy damage has been caused to terrorist jungle bases.

Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed at Padiyanweli, while another committed sucide by swallowing a cyanide capsule at Palugamam.

Two of three men who went hunting in the jungles of Pulaveli, a village in the Ampara District, were abducted and killed by LTTE terrorists, while the third managed to escape. The bodies of the victims were found later.